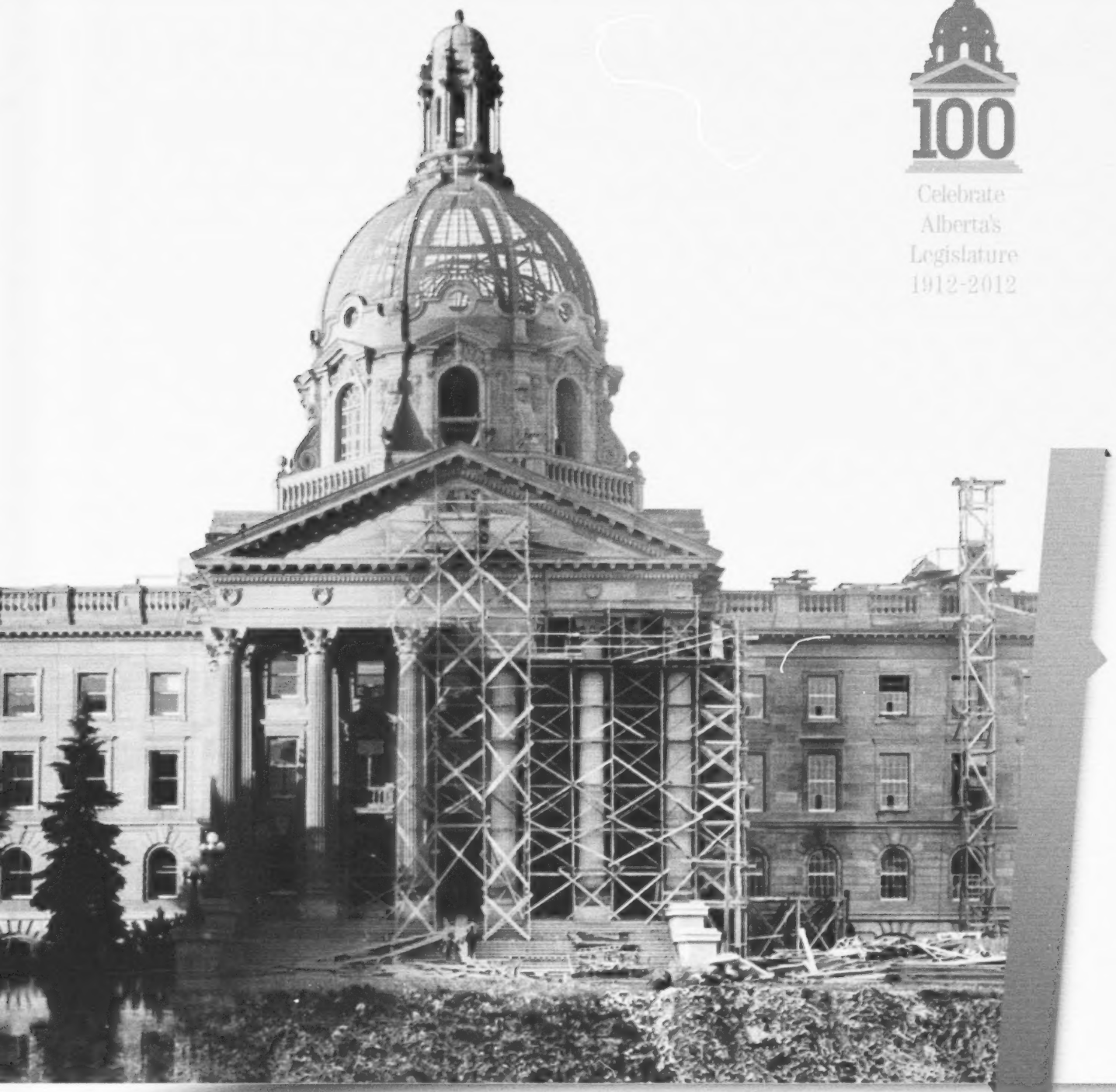
Building Our Legacy

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2012

AND THE 2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, ALBERTA BRANCH AND INTERPARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS



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Celebrate Alberta's Legislature 1912-2012

1906 The 21 acres for the site on which the Legislature was built were purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company.

1907 Excavation for the building began August 20, 1907.

1908 The first steel for the building frame was laid on August 26, 1908.

1908 A foundation of concrete was started on October 21, 1908.

1909 On May 18, 1909, after the steel frame was completed up to the main floor level, the first granite for the lower level was placed.

1909 The Governor General of Canada, Earl Grey, placed the cornerstone on October 1, 1909.

1916

THE AIM WAS TO BUILD THE

'MOST IMPORTANT AND IMPOSING STRUCTURE IN THE PROVINCE.'

(Source: Alberta Department of Public Works Annual Report, 1908)

"...by the graceful structure you have erected you, gentlemen, have shown your sentiment of the dignity of the duties which have to be performed here. In declaring these halls open in the name of His Majesty the King, I do so with the heartfelt prayer that, under the blessing of Almighty God, your deliberations here be inspired by wisdom and foresight, and that your decision may always be for the true and lasting benefit of the Province of Alberta and of the Dominion of Canada." – Governor General, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught

And so by decree of the Governor General of Canada our grand Legislature was officially opened on September 3, 1912. Designed by provincial architect A.M. Jeffers in the beaux arts style popular between 1895 and 1920, the building was a first of its kind in Alberta and the perfect canvas on which to paint what would become the colourful political landscape of our province.

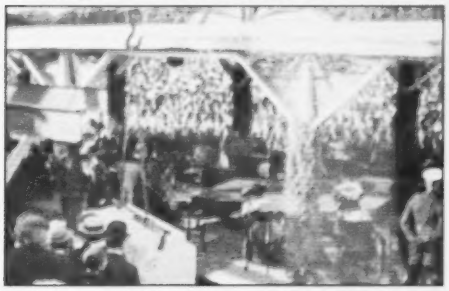
The construction of the building continued year-round for five years. In order to work through Alberta's severe winters, a heating house equipped with steam pipes covering the entire floor was built to hold yards of stone and sand used in the construction.

Over the last 100 years the Legislature Building has represented many things to Albertans. For some it is the symbol of democracy, providing a forum for activism and citizenship. For others it is a destination and a place to enjoy family events and activities. For others still it is a most cherished landmark, rich with history, tradition and majestic architecture. The Legislature Building is a place for every Albertan, for everyone.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Legislature Building is 53.64 metres (176 feet) high from the ground line to the top of the dome and 103.63 metres (340 feet) in length.
- The Legislature Building is estimated to have cost $2.4 million.
- Excavation of the building site was completed by steam-powered shovel.
- About 315 train cars were used to transport stone from the Quinlan Carter Co. quarry in southern Alberta.
- The interior walls except in the rotunda and vaults are built of hollow terracotta blocks in order to allow partitions to be removed without interfering with the construction of the building.

Then & Now



On October 1, 1909, a time capsule was placed behind the northeast cornerstone of the Alberta Legislature Building. A brass plaque was placed at the site to denote the time capsule and its significance.

On June 18, 2012, the time capsule was unearthed from behind the cornerstone. Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Culture, hosted the ceremony.

On Canada Day, July 1, 2012, the time capsule was placed on display in the rotunda of the Legislature Building. On September 2, at the Party Under the Dome centennial event, the contents of the time capsule were revealed.

1911 The library was first to move into the new Legislature Building in November 1911.

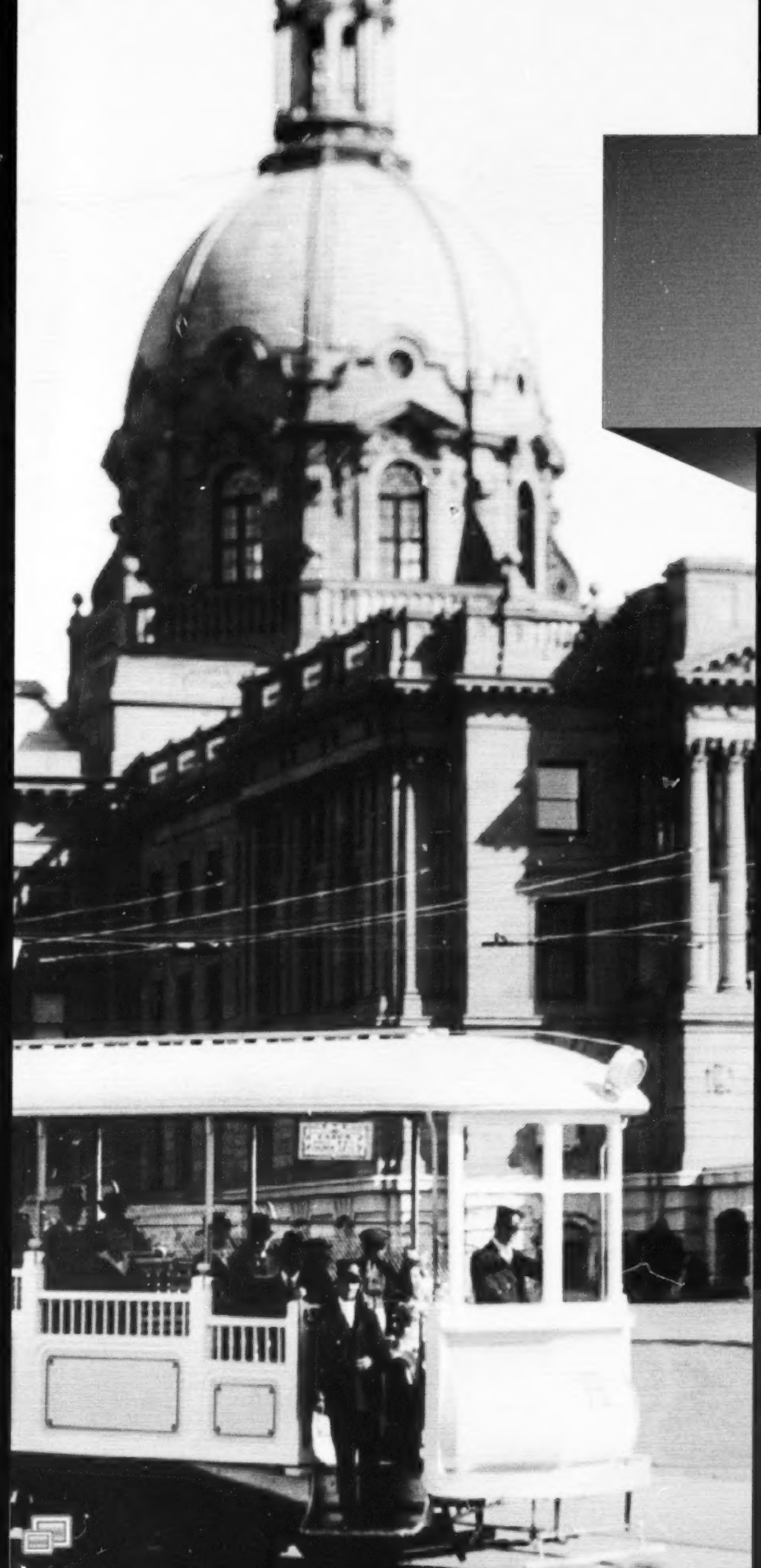
Work on the grounds surrounding the Legislature Building began in 1910. The intention was to turn the space into a beautiful park.

1911 The Legislative Assembly first met in the Chamber on November 30, 1911, 11 months before the official opening and before construction of the building was complete.

1912 The transfer of government offices into the new Legislature Building began in early 1912 and continued throughout the year.

1912 The last tile placed on the dome was reported to have been laid on May 6, 1912.

1912 The building was officially opened by the Governor General, HRH the Duke of Connaught, on September 3, 1912.



In 2012 we embarked on a historic journey.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE MAGNIFICENT ALBERTA LEGISLATURE BUILDING BEGAN WITH THE UNEARTHING OF THE TIME CAPSULE PLACED BENEATH THE CORNERSTONE BY OUR FOREBEARS 100 YEARS AGO. FOLLOWING THIS GLIMPSE INTO OUR PROVINCE'S PAST WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2013, WHEN WE WILL CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OUR TRADITIONS, INSPIRING SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS OF ALBERTANS TO RESPECT THE PAST AND EMBRACE THE FUTURE.

100
1913 2013

THE DOME
ALBERTA

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

W I T H 1 0 0+ P H O T O S

"Far more than concrete and stone, Alberta's 100-year-old Legislature Building is a beloved landmark and a testament to democracy and citizenship in our province."

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

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Building Our Legacy

The year 2012 was one of many milestones.

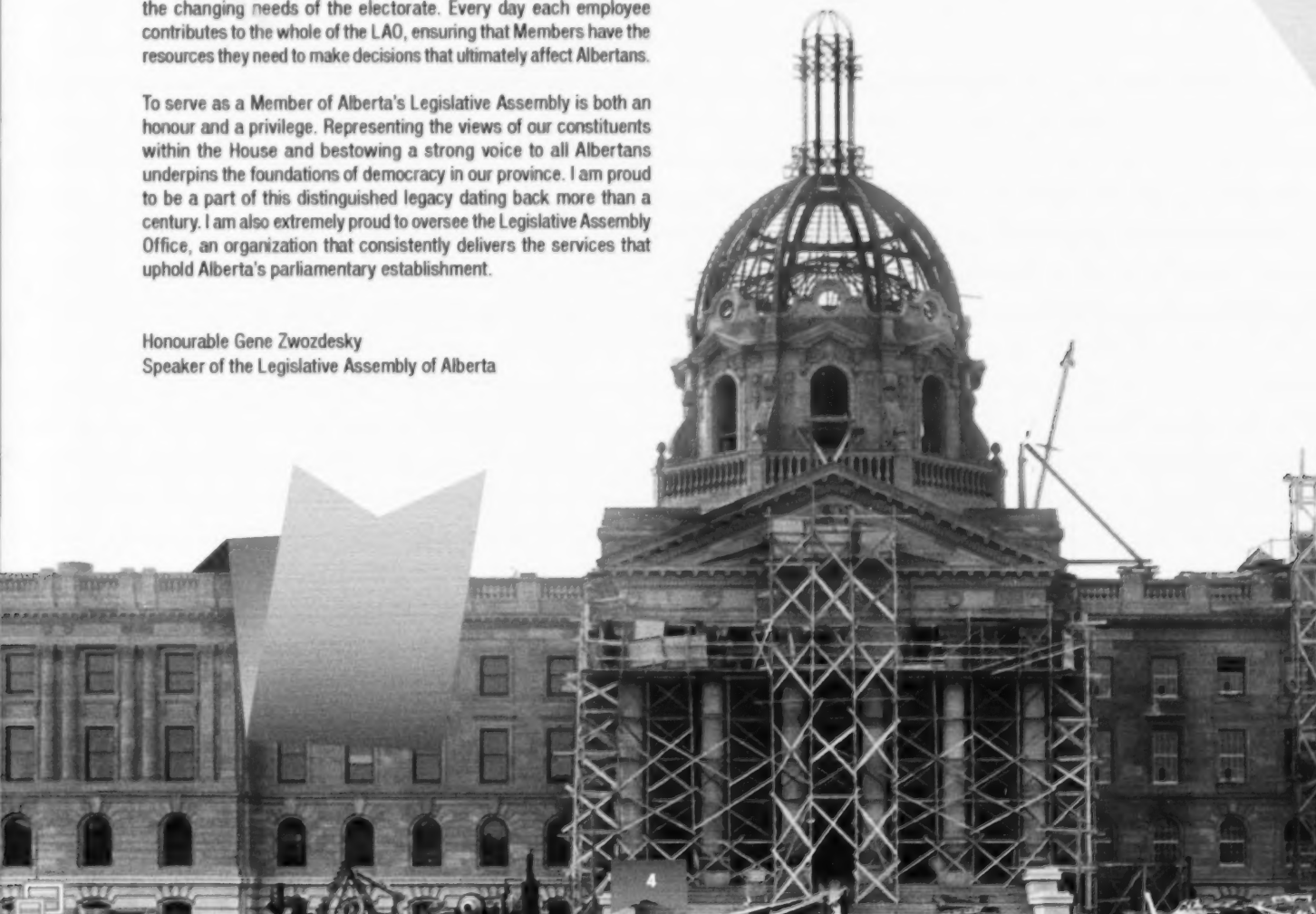
Albertans went to the polls on April 23, 2012, for the 28th provincial general election. Upon the election call, it was all hands on deck for the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO). At every level of the organization, preparations began in anticipation of the incoming Members. Four new electoral boundaries were added in 2011, thus increasing the number of Members to 87. Following the election, we welcomed 38 new Members to the Legislature, a 45 per cent membership change not seen since 1993. Across all branches this translated into a significant increase in the amount of work involved in orienting the Members to their new roles.

The year 2012 also marked 100 years of the Alberta Legislature Building, the centre of democracy in this province, where every day a piece of history is made. Members of the Legislative Assembly have walked its halls since 1911 and, through impassioned debates, have yielded thoughtful legislation reflecting the needs of our province.

The LAO was established in 1983 to support Members in navigating the changing needs of the electorate. Every day each employee contributes to the whole of the LAO, ensuring that Members have the resources they need to make decisions that ultimately affect Albertans.

To serve as a Member of Alberta's Legislative Assembly is both an honour and a privilege. Representing the views of our constituents within the House and bestowing a strong voice to all Albertans underpins the foundations of democracy in our province. I am proud to be a part of this distinguished legacy dating back more than a century. I am also extremely proud to oversee the Legislative Assembly Office, an organization that consistently delivers the services that uphold Alberta's parliamentary establishment.

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta



Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission

To provide nonpartisan parliamentary support to the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly as they carry out their roles as elected representatives.

Our Vision

Respect Tradition

Exemplify Service

Promote Innovation

Our Values

Impartiality – Integrity – Improvement

Employees of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) are proud to provide services to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of the citizens of Alberta. We are guided in our work and conduct by a core set of principles that motivate us as individuals and reflect the qualities of the office as a whole.

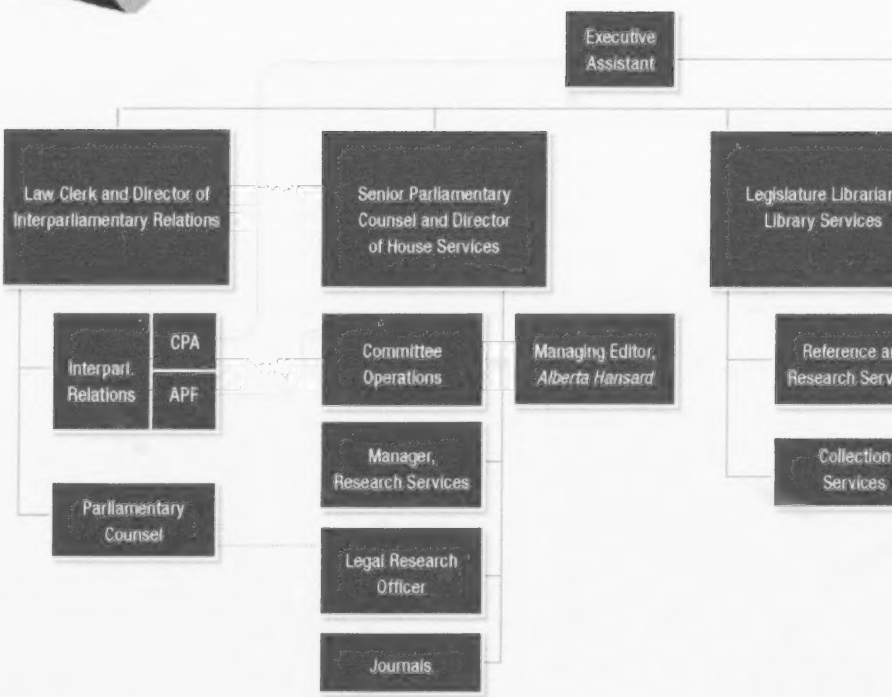
Our History

Established in 1983, the origins of Alberta's Legislative Assembly Office can be traced back to 14th-century England, when Parliament elected the first Speaker and appointed the first Clerk. The Legislative Assembly Office works hard to uphold and abide by parliamentary tradition while at the same time ensuring our operations are run in a nonpartisan manner and respond to the needs of the Members we serve.

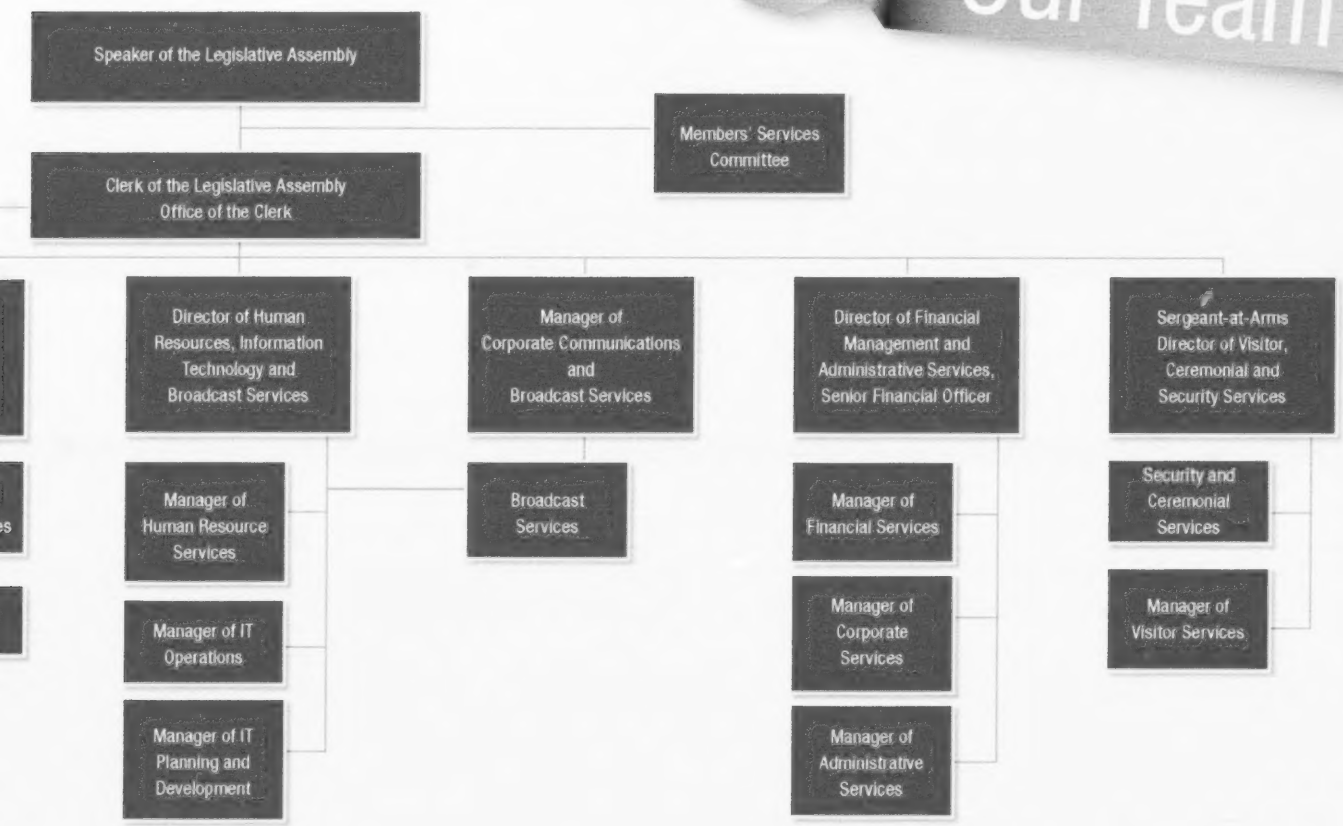
It may come as a surprise to some, but the Legislative Assembly Office is not a government department. The government is the executive branch, responsible for applying and enforcing laws, and the Legislative Assembly is responsible for establishing those laws. The LAO is a separate and unique entity from government with the passion and commitment to provide all Members of the Legislative Assembly, regardless of party affiliation, with the support they need to represent and serve their constituents.

Since 1906 we've welcomed 829 individuals as Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. We work in a dynamic environment where our practices continually evolve in direct relation to the changing needs of Members and those they represent. Service will always lie at the heart of our business. In a climate of heightened activity such as a provincial general election our day-to-day activities become amplified and our commitment to cross-branch co-operation becomes more crucial to our success. We strive to create efficiencies and uphold high standards to ensure that even a century from now the LAO remains the thread of continuity for the legislative process in Alberta.

Dr. David McNeil
Clerk of the Legislative
Assembly of Alberta



Our Team


Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Members' Services Committee
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Office of the Clerk
Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Broadcast Services
Manager of Corporate Communications and Broadcast Services
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services, Senior Financial Officer
Sergeant-at-Arms
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services
Manager of Human Resource Services
Broadcast Services
Manager of Financial Services
Security and Ceremonial Services
Manager of IT Operations
Manager of Corporate Services
Manager of Visitor Services
Manager of IT Planning and Development
Manager of Administrative Services

Our Services

The LAO, under the authority of the Speaker, provides nonpartisan, procedural, administrative and educational services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public. These services include:

Office of the Clerk

The Clerk is the chief executive officer of the Legislative Assembly and has authority and responsibility equivalent to that of a deputy minister. Under the direction of the Speaker the Clerk has both procedural and managerial responsibilities and oversees the delivery of nonpartisan services to Members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff.

The Office of the Clerk is responsible for

- providing advice, research and support to the Speaker and Members on procedural matters concerning the privileges, rules, usages and proceedings of the Assembly and co-ordinating procedural services by other officers of the Assembly; preparing documents of the Assembly and ensuring the safekeeping of the Assembly's documents and records;
- providing all necessary administrative and support services to the Assembly during its sittings and ensuring that essential services are provided to the Assembly Chamber;
- presiding over the election of the Speaker at the opening of a new Legislature;
- announcing the Assembly's order of business and conducting its recorded votes or divisions during its sittings; and
- supervising the officers of the Assembly, including the Director of House Services, Parliamentary Counsel, Law Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms.

As chief operating officer the Clerk has the following managerial responsibilities:

- directing the operational services of the Legislative Assembly Office;
- authorizing all financial commitments the Assembly enters into;
- directing the preparation of the Assembly's annual estimates and advising the Members' Services Committee in their consideration and approval;
- acting as liaison at the deputy minister level with government departments on matters related to the Assembly, the Chamber and the Legislative Assembly Office; and
- serving as chair of the LAO Executive Committee (Law Clerk, Director of House Services, Sergeant-at-Arms, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Broadcast Services, Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services, Legislature Librarian, and Manager of Corporate Communications and Broadcast Services).

Communications Services

Communications Services provides strategic planning, consulting and design expertise to the LAO's internal and external audiences. Communications Services' responsibilities include

- supporting the organizational goals of the LAO and the mandates of all-party committees;
- delivering professional writing, design and web services in the creation of promotional and educational materials for the LAO;
- co-ordinating social media and media relations and maintaining internal and external websites for the Legislative Assembly; and
- assisting with planning, execution and documentation in support of special events.

Broadcast Services

Broadcast Services oversees the accurate and high-quality broadcast production of the House proceedings. Additional responsibilities of Broadcast Services include

- managing the communication of information affecting the broadcast;
- developing guidelines and procedures for broadcast operations; and
- assisting with the co-ordination of remote broadcasts involving external media.

Legal Services/Parliamentary Counsel

Legal Services is comprised of the Law Clerk, Parliamentary Counsel and staff. The branch provides advice to the Speaker, Members, committees and the LAO, including advice on contracts, employment law and leases. Legal Services is also responsible for

- defending and asserting the rights, privileges and immunities of Members and the Assembly;
- assisting Members and caucuses in interpreting statutory provisions concerning Members' benefits, rights and immunities, including the *Legislative Assembly Act* and Members' Services Committee Orders;
- assisting Members with administering oaths and using their ex officio notarial powers; and
- serving as counsel to the committees of the Assembly, including Members' Services, Legislative Offices and Private Bills.

In addition, Parliamentary Counsel

- serves as Table Officers;
- assists Members with drafting private Members' Bills and amendments and reviews and provides advice on private Bills;
- approves petitions prior to their presentation in the Assembly; and
- prepares official copies of the Bills enacted by the Legislature.

Interparliamentary Relations

Interparliamentary Relations is responsible for organizing Alberta's participation in various parliamentary associations and organizations and managing relations between the Assembly and other Canadian and international parliaments. Responsibilities include

- co-ordinating the Legislative Assembly's participation in conferences, seminars and exchanges of a parliamentary nature in Canada and abroad; and
- organizing programs for incoming parliamentarians and legislators from around the world.

House Services

House Services oversees House and committee proceedings and is responsible for the production of various House and committee documents and records, including the official report of the debates of the Assembly and its committees, also known as *Alberta Hansard*, as well as the Order Paper, Votes and Proceedings and the *Journals*.

Other responsibilities include

- providing procedural advice to the Speaker and Members and preparing documents for the daily business of the House;
- ensuring that all administrative, financial and support services are available for the effective operation of standing and special committees of the Assembly;
- providing nonpartisan research and issue analysis as directed and in support of the mandates of the committees of the Assembly;
- processing items to be placed on notice on the Order Paper, including Bills, Motions,

Written Questions, Motions for Returns and Motions Other than Government Motions; and

- maintaining custody of current and historical Assembly records.

Human Resource Services

Human Resource Services (HRS) provides customized human resource management, compensation and consulting services that enhance overall organizational performance. These services include

- development and implementation of multidisciplinary human resource strategies to meet operational objectives;
- leadership and advice on human resources related issues such as organizational design and planning, recruitment, talent management and development, employee relations, health and wellness, disability management, Member remuneration and staff compensation and classification;
- management of the integrated in-house payroll and HR systems; and
- ensuring an efficient transition of staff and MLAs at general elections, by-elections and cabinet shuffles.

Financial Management and Administrative Services

Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS) supports the Speaker, Members and the LAO by providing financial management and administrative services.

Financial Management services include budget preparation, processing of claims, expenses and allowances (Members, caucuses and branches), transaction compliance review and accounting, preparation of monthly reports for Members and branches, preparation of financial statements and co-ordination of the financial statement audit.

Administrative services include furniture, equipment and supplies procurement, co-ordination of telecommunications services, constituency office services (leasing, set-up, moves, et cetera) and property management co-ordination for LAO offices and caucuses.

In addition, FMAS is also responsible for

- administering the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* as it pertains to the LAO and providing advice and assistance in access and privacy matters for Members and the LAO;
- managing the development and implementation of an information and records management program for the Legislative Assembly and providing advice and support on information records management issues to Members of the Assembly and staff; and
- providing risk management and insurance coverage, advice and claims co-ordination services to Members and LAO branches.

Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services

Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services (VCSS) provides services ranging from developing and managing public programming to providing security services for the Legislative Assembly, its precincts and all constituency offices. In addition, VCSS advises MLAs, constituency staff and LAO employees on security matters, liaises with external intelligence, public safety and security organizations and is responsible for

- directing the LAO security access card program;
- directing the Page program;
- taking attendance of Members in the House;
- providing the care and custody of the Mace and the furniture and fittings of the Assembly;
- directing the operation of the Interpretive Centre and Gift Shop;
- offering services to the public, including guided tours, gallery bookings and educational programs; and
- conceiving, planning and executing ceremonial and special events.

Library Services

Library Services provides nonpartisan, confidential and timely information, news and reference services to Members and their constituency and caucus staff as well as the LAO. Applying both a traditional approach and the latest technology, Library Services is also responsible for

- compiling and delivering a customized daily electronic news service to Members;
- responding to Members' information needs through subscription databases and e-books as well as an electronic government documents repository and parliamentary network;
- collecting and providing access to information on social, economic, environmental and other public policy issues;
- collecting and providing access to information on public policy matters in areas such as health, law, science, business, environment, energy, social issues and education; and
- preserving and chronicling information about Alberta's history and parliamentary heritage, including data about Members and electoral divisions.

Information Technology Services

Information Technology Services (ITS) provides all technology services to the Speaker, Members, caucuses, constituency offices and LAO branches. ITS focuses on introducing the latest in technology to best serve the needs of the stakeholders. Services include

- acquiring, deploying and maintaining all hardware and software;
- procuring and supporting mobile devices, as well as negotiating contracts;
- co-ordinating and delivering IT training;
- supporting all network infrastructure, including network servers, cabling and wireless facilities;
- enforcing policies and guidelines to provide a secure IT environment;
- providing consultation services to analyze business needs and deploy the best technology solution;
- developing and deploying applications on multiple platforms, including desktop and web;
- supporting enterprise applications with a focus on workflow and integrating with the business processes; and
- supporting audiovisual and multimedia applications, including streaming of House and committee proceedings.

> "As systems become more integrated and complex, teamwork becomes critical. With a professional and cohesive team ITS has evolved from being a technology provider into a solutions provider."
>
> *Val Rutherford, Manager of Planning and Development, Information Technology Services*

Our Progress

Alberta's Legislature Building: A testament to 100 years of parliamentary progress

"Alberta's Legislature represents a century of history, democracy and tradition, said Speaker Gene Zwozdesky. The Party Under the Dome was the perfect way to celebrate the best of our historic building and the legacy it represents to all Albertans."

The Alberta Legislature Building is a reflection of who we are as a province and how far we've come since 1912, when the doors to the building first opened. Providing a foundation for the legislative process, the Legislature Building has been home to lively debate and historic decisions that have brought us from humble beginnings to the strong province we are today. It was not only steel and stone that was honoured in 2012 but also the tradition and the legacy that live between the walls. Its hallowed halls could tell a thousand stories.

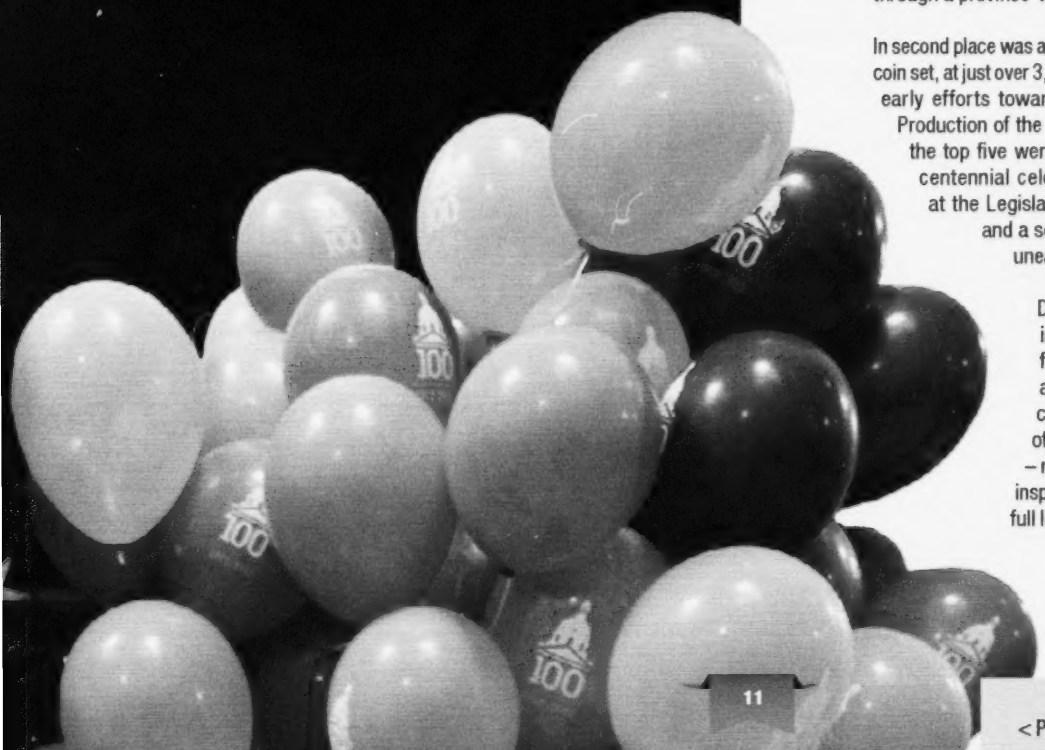
An occasion that only comes around once in 100 years deserved a celebration that would be remembered for generations to come. The year-long festivities began in June 2012 with the unearthing of a time capsule placed beneath the cornerstone of the building during its construction in 1909. In a fashion similar to how it began, a time capsule ceremony will close the centennial celebrations in September 2013.

The Party of a Century

The September 2 Party Under the Dome event began with a step back into the past with a re-enactment of the building's opening ceremony, performed by costumed actors on the Legislature's front steps. The re-enactment was introduced by the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and combined various elements of the 1912 inaugural celebrations into a single theatrical presentation. Another of the many highlights of the day was the long-awaited time capsule reveal on the front steps of the Legislature Building. Participating in the reveal were Premier Alison Redford; Speaker Gene Zwozdesky; Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Culture; Honourable Wayne Drysdale, Minister of Infrastructure and school children from the audience. Just a few of the time capsule's contents were a Bible, newspapers, sheepskin scroll, coins and what are thought to be the original set of blueprints for the building.

And no party would be complete without birthday cake! The Sergeant-at-Arms stood guard as two Alberta centenarians cut the cake, a miniature replica of the Legislature Building. The 1912-inspired fair that followed featured live entertainment, stilt walkers and an antique car display. To top things off, architectural tours of the historic building were offered throughout the afternoon as well.

In the evening an estimated 15,000 turned out with lawn chairs, glow sticks and a whole lot of excitement for the family-friendly centennial concert headlined by Alberta-born and internationally acclaimed country star Paul Brandt. Brandt was preceded on stage by blues rock band Big Sugar and rising country artist Brett Kissel. The jam-packed event came to a close with a spectacular fireworks display launched from the Legislature Grounds.



A Time to Involve Albertans – Let's Vote

Determining what sort of message Albertans of today should leave for the generations of tomorrow was a difficult task. In the end the LAO decided that it was a question best answered by our citizens, for what could be more democratic and steeped in parliamentary tradition than a vote?

"The physical manifestation of our legislative system, the Legislature belongs to the citizens of this great province. It was important to directly involve Albertans in this legacy through the Party Under the Dome and the time capsule initiatives," said Valerie Footz, Legislature Librarian.

Almost 6,000 Albertans participated in a province-wide vote to help decide the top five items for inclusion in the Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule. Voting began in June 2012 and closed on December 31.

At close to 4,000 votes the top item was student letters to the future, representing a link between Alberta's youth of today and future generations. In early 2013 letters to be included in the Alberta Legislature centennial time capsule will be chosen through a province-wide contest.

In second place was a roll of 2012 pennies and a full uncirculated coin set, at just over 3,800 votes. The Canadian penny represents early efforts towards a Canadian identity and economy. Production of the coin ceased in May 2012. Rounding out the top five were newspapers showing coverage of the centennial celebrations, photos of the LAO's School at the Legislature participants in the centennial year and a selection of photos from the time capsule unearthing ceremony in June 2012.

During the online vote the public was also invited to provide original suggestions for time capsule contents. From this an additional 406 suggestions for consideration were received. While many of the suggestions – a Twinkie, for instance – may not be feasible, the feedback will lend inspiration to possible additional contents. The full list of contents is expected to be revealed in 2013.

An Occasion Marked by Teamwork

Planning for the centennial celebrations was years in the making. Like they say, many hands make light work and so too with the centennial celebrations, made possible in part with the support of Alberta Infrastructure and community partners Alberta Culture, the ATCO Group, Corus Entertainment and the Edmonton Journal. "It was a very challenging and work-intensive event but one which was ultimately satisfying in that it brought focus to the Legislature and its history in the development of our province and our capital city," stated Diane Brayman, Manager of Visitor Services.

With the help of its partners the LAO pulled together and successfully pulled off its biggest event ever. Logistics and event coordination for the day were spearheaded by the Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services branch with promotions, advertising and media relations contributed by Communications Services. Legal Services supported the massive event through the drafting of sponsorship agreements and contracts for the performers. The delicate process of unearthing and unveiling the 1909 time capsule was overseen by the Legislature Library, who, enlisting the expertise of the Provincial Archives, also co-ordinated the conservation of contents removed from the capsule. With time capsule best practices and with the benefit of the experiences of other Legislatures as a guide, Library Services suggested the ballot list. The infrastructure created to facilitate the online voting system was built and maintained by Information Technology Services.

For over a century now the Legislature Building has stood as a resource for citizenship and democracy. We end 2012 with a look towards the next chapter, the continuation of the centennial celebration which promises to end on as historic a note as it began.

> "Alberta has been a driver of considerable social and economic change in Canada over the past 100 years, and the centennial provided the perfect opportunity to highlight the significance of the Legislature Building to the legislative process in a symbolic yet entertaining fashion for all Albertans to enjoy."
>
> Brian Hodgson, Sergeant at Arms and Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services

The Legacy of an Election

To work within such close proximity to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta is a privilege enjoyed by few lucky enough to work at the LAO. Staff members understand that this privilege comes with the great responsibility of doing all that is possible to anticipate and fulfill the needs of the Members so they can engage with their constituents and effectively facilitate the democratic process. This was never more evident than during the period of transition before and after the 28th general provincial election of Alberta, which took place in April 2012.

Alberta's *Election Act* 38.1 (2) states that "general elections shall be held within the 3-month period beginning on March 1 and ending on May 31 in the 4th calendar year following polling day in the most recent general election."

"Each subsequent election has brought different lessons to be learned," said Jacqueline Breault, Manager of Corporate Services. "The leadership and work ethic shown by staff during this time of increased activity proved that each team member understood what it took to deliver on their core responsibilities. Ensuring that the Members' transitions would take place as seamlessly as possible is always the top priority."

With an impending election there was considerable focus on preparing resources to orient the slate of incoming Members and staff to their new roles. LAO staff participated in preparation sessions that provided information on how to manage certain processes and procedures and to review the impacts of the election on the organization and the individual branches. Legal services as well as any assistance with regards to the interpretation of the *Election Act* were made available to the Chief Electoral Office of Alberta as needed. Various documents that required review included employment forms, lease agreements, dissolution guides, constituency office guides and procedural materials while the proper retention of MLA records and expense forms and the closure of banking services also needed to be dealt with. As well, updates were made to the content of the orientation packages and orientation sessions to properly welcome the new Members.

Electoral boundary changes brought about four new constituencies as well as 19 changes to riding names, necessitating a substantial revamp of the electoral division profiles developed by the Legislative Library. Comprehensive information (20-30 pages in some instances) was compiled for all 87 constituencies; specifically, ridings in Edmonton and Calgary were traced back to their beginning in the first election in 1905. Using electoral division maps, old city maps, homestead maps and legislation, staff were able to pinpoint the 107 year history of city ridings to within a few blocks. Much effort was also made to collect and verify biographical information on each of the candidates.

New Members, New Challenges

Significant changes to the Legislative Assembly took place following the 2012 election, the most notable being the considerable number of new Members and the new Speaker of the House. The business of the House could not continue until a Speaker was elected. Much preparation went into creating a comprehensive briefing package to ensure that the successor would be well-equipped and comfortable to take the seat when the 28th Legislature session opened.

The election also brought the challenge of transitioning the new Members into their constituency offices. Branches worked tirelessly to complete this assignment as there were only about 10 days to turn around the spaces and have them prepared for the Members-elect.

Other important undertakings at this time included the swearing-in of Members, the briefing of procedures for the presiding officers by the table officers and making changes to standing orders that impact all-party committees.

> "Election time gives the LAO an opportunity to review the deliverables and services we offer to Members; it allows us to improve upon the processes we already have in place and ensures that we are better prepared with each subsequent Legislature."
>
> Robert Reynolds, Law Clerk and Director of Interparliamentary Relations

On the more technical end 38 new Member offices were set up and 32 additional office moves were completed, all requiring electronic equipment such as computers and printers. As well, the LAO offered assistance to Members and their staff with respect to the best technological solutions to serve their constituents.

Support was extended to new Members in terms of setting up their Legislative Assembly and constituency finances. Information regarding accounting policies, risk management and insurance, contracts signing and Members services accounts was given as well.

Members' biographies were written by the LAO with contributions from the Member themselves and subsequently posted to the Assembly website for public access.

Employees who joined the LAO were given new employee orientations. These sessions, held in conjunction with the spring constituency employee seminars, provided information on the LAO, constituency office guidelines and administrative branch services.

Life after the Legislature

The excitement of welcoming new Members and staff to the LAO was countered with the challenge of managing the administrative affairs of outgoing staff and Members, those who were defeated in the election or chose not to run for re-election.

"The impartial but personal service and the one-on-one relationship we build with those whom we serve is never more important than at this time of transition," said Cheryl Scarlett, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Broadcast Services.

Individualized meetings were conducted with the 35 departing Members to assist them with their decisions related to their transition allowances and health benefits. Resource information related to career counselling, financial planning and retirement planning was provided and various claims and expense forms also had to be finalized prior to their departures.

Increased supports for employees were also developed and career transition workshops were offered to the 106 caucus and constituency staff whose jobs were affected as a result of the election.

As with any election, this was also an emotional time for Members who needed to close out their respective legislative offices. As always, LAO staff carried out their respective tasks with professionalism and objectivity.

> "Members are invariably here to help the people they represent. It is rewarding to know that in some small way we support them in fulfilling their responsibilities to Albertans."
>
> Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel and Clerk of Journals

They Also Served

Partners in Service Exhibit– Paying tribute to the people behind the Premiers

Very few individuals have a concept of the level of commitment required by those who serve in public office. Charged with overseeing all matters at the provincial level, there is no higher post than that of Premier.

"With the Premiership, the commitment of one greatly affects the entire family, who contribute not only through sacrifices made to support the Premier in his/her aspirations for the province but also who work at various levels within their communities and the province-at-large towards the betterment of our province," said Valerie Footz, Legislature Librarian.

It is one thing to choose a public life for oneself; it is quite another to be thrust into this demanding and highly visible station as a result of the ambitions of a family member. Such was the case for the partners of Alberta's Premiers. While they didn't necessarily choose public life, these 13 individuals embraced the responsibilities a public life brings by contributing their passion, talent and knowledge for the betterment of society. Portraits honouring the service of Alberta's Premiers have graced the walls of the Alberta Legislature for generations, and rightly so, but only more recently did we pay tribute to their dedicated partners.

On May 9, 2012, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, the Honourable Ken Kowalski, unveiled the Partners in Service exhibit on the fifth floor of the Alberta Legislature. To make the exhibit a reality, many moving parts converged. The research was conducted by Library Services, and Communications Services worked with a local design firm to co-ordinate the exhibit concept and production. As well, Alberta Infrastructure staff were responsible for preparing the space, which included the installation of lighting and the painting of walls as well as overseeing the intricate process of installing the exhibit.

The lion's share of work involved procuring photos of and writing accurate biographies on the 13 individuals who oftentimes lived in the shadow of their formidable spouses. As a consequence, official documentation on these individuals was sparse, especially for those who served in the early 20th century, necessitating the gathering of original research, which took months to compile.

Painstaking hours were spent poring over census, newspapers and archival records, but in many cases Library Services staff had no choice but to go directly to the source and thus began interviewing the partners themselves or descendants to gain insight into these quietly influential individuals. With family histories boasting a strong commitment to public service, it is perhaps not surprising that in all cases staff were met with astounding generosity and assistance from the families. In one case, a grandson entrusted the LAO with his only photo of his grandmother.

While the backgrounds of each partner varied, all held public service in high esteem and each chose to be a positive community influence. Collectively they brought attention to important issues and organizations of the day. In the case of Margaret Getty the contribution was largely through philanthropic efforts in support of hospitals, schools and seniors' residences; whereas, Jeanne Lougheed's legacy lies with the arts community, where she is perhaps best known for her support of the Alberta Ballet, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the Banff Centre.

The health and wellness of aboriginal communities was a primary focus for Colleen Klein, who participated in aboriginal health conferences and Crossroads women's sharing circle; while the charities near and dear to Marie Stelmach's heart often centred on children such as with the Kids Kottage and the Girl Guides of Canada.

Many partners assisted with the Canadian Red Cross as well as local church and community groups, including the YMCA and community leagues. Support for agriculture through 4-H and other organizations was also common. Another powerful contribution made by many partners involved the development of women at both the provincial and national levels. This work was often done through affiliation with such organizations as the Women's Educational Association and the Edmonton chapter of the Women's Canadian Club as was the case with Mattie Rutherford, spouse to Alberta's first premier.

When asked what she hoped the exhibit accomplished, Legislature Librarian Valerie Footz mused that few Albertans understand the true commitment required by those who serve in political office and that through its recognition of the substantial contributions and sacrifices made by the families of elected officials, she hopes the exhibit provides a more complete and thus truer picture of public life. The exhibit is currently comprised of 13 portraits, and as future chapters in Alberta's legislative story unfold, the legacy of service will continue to be recognized and honoured.

> "The Premier of Alberta holds a demanding and highly visible position. While the contributions of each Premier have become part of Alberta's documented history, the roles that their partners have played have most often gone unrecognized."

Introduction to the Partners in Service exhibit

Getting Social with Alberta

Building relationships with Albertans through social media

The Legislative Assembly Office is committed to continually improving its services complementary to the ever-changing needs of Members and ultimately those to whom they are accountable, Albertans.

In July 2012, responding to the need for a more immediate and interactive relationship with the public in order to support the Legislative Assembly's external initiatives, the LAO established an internal social media policy and launched its social media presence.

"Albertans are increasingly reliant on social media as a source of information. Integrating social media in our communications planning supports Members by providing them with information that is of interest to their constituents," said Rhonda Sorensen, Manager of Communications and Broadcast Services.

The LAO's social media policy largely focuses on the goals of informing Albertans of Legislative Assembly news and committee meetings in a timely and proactive fashion, promoting Legislative Assembly events hosted by the Speaker, engaging citizens by being accessible and by participating in interactive commentary online and enhancing the Legislative Assembly's online presence by posting quality nonpartisan photos and videos.

Information is posted on Facebook and Twitter, and videos and photos are featured on YouTube and Flickr. All postings and updates are managed by LAO Communications Services.

During the Legislative Assembly's annual events in 2012 and the Party Under the Dome celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Legislature Building social media played an important role in reaching audiences and industry partners for promotion.

Legislative committees also began to leverage social media to disseminate information, meeting dates and times, presentations and committee proceedings to reach the appropriate audiences. For the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund public meeting social media is a very important way to interact with audiences watching the live broadcast and online stream. In subsequent years steps will be taken to further enhance the interactive element of the public meeting.

In this day and age social media is arguably the most expeditious way of delivering information to Albertans. Through its participation in social media, the LAO exemplifies its commitment to improving services to Members as their needs evolve.

After all, the business of the LAO is to assist Members in serving constituents. The public expects transparent, accurate and timely information, and social media allows the LAO to fulfill these demands, in turn supporting the Members who serve Albertans.

> "Social media has become an invaluable tool in delivering timely messages about Legislative Assembly events and committee information to the Members and the public."

Rhonda Sorensen, Manager of Corporate Communications and Broadcast Services

Events

Swearing-in Ceremony for Alberta's Information and Privacy Commissioner

On February 1, 2012, Jill Clayton was sworn in as Alberta's third Information and Privacy Commissioner.

> "Ms. Clayton is recognized as an influential leader and has established the credibility required to protect and maintain public trust."

Honourable Speaker Kowalski

40th Anniversary of Hansard and Broadcasting

As of March 8, 2012, *Hansard* has produced transcripts for 3,650 House meetings and 1,975 standing and select special committee meetings.

"There shall be a printed record of the deliberations and proceedings of the sittings of the Assembly to be known as the *Alberta Hansard* which shall be compiled, edited, printed, distributed and administered under the direction and authority of the Speaker, in accordance with this rule." – Government Motion 1, March 8, 1972

Alberta also became the first jurisdiction in Canada to broadcast Assembly proceedings 40 years ago. The motion was introduced by then Minister of Education Honourable Lou Hyndman and seconded by Honourable Don Getty, then Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Rick Hansen Addresses the Assembly

On March 12, 2012, Rick Hansen spoke in the Chamber, making him the only individual to have been invited to speak twice to the Members in the Assembly's 106-year history. Mr. Hansen's Man in Motion World Tour raised awareness for spinal cord research and spanned 26 months, 40,000 kilometres and 34 countries.

"I felt so buoyed because I was looked up to as a Canadian no matter where I went in the world . . . I felt proud of our values and what we stand for." – Rick Hansen

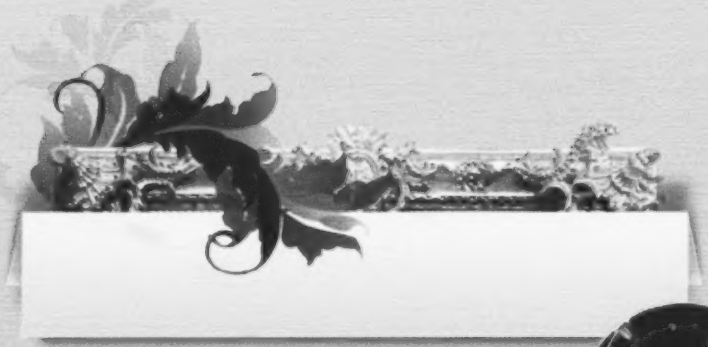
The 25th Anniversary Relay retraced the Canadian segment of the original tour. Over nine months the Rick Hansen Relay revisited 12,000 kilometres and over 600 communities throughout every province and territory.

Child and Youth Advocate Becomes Independent

Alberta's Child and Youth Advocate became a fully independent Officer of the Legislature effective April 1, 2012. The office ensures that the rights, interests and viewpoints of Alberta's vulnerable children and youth are affirmed and acted upon.

"This change is very important to us ... it will increase the profile of the work that we do with vulnerable young people." – Del Graff, Alberta's Child and Youth Advocate

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Garden Party



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrated 60 years as monarch in 2012. To mark the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta His Honourable, Col. (Ret'd) the Honourable Donald S. Ethell hosted garden parties – said to be one of the Queen's favourite events – in Edmonton and in Calgary on June 2 and July 21, respectively.

> "The Diamond Jubilee Garden Party is a chance for everyone to celebrate the Queen's 60 years of outstanding service to our nation and to honour the important role Her Majesty has played in the lives of all Canadians."
>
> *Lieutenant Governor Ethell*

Legislative Broadcast and Recording Association (LBRA) Conference

The LAO's Broadcast Services was pleased to welcome delegates from across the country as Alberta hosted the 2012 LBRA conference from August 20 to 24, 2012. The group held its annual general meeting and toured the Alberta Legislature TV control room.

Industry experts were invited to speak on a broad range of industry topics, from integrating social media into the broadcast world to closed captioning of live TV services.

"Best practices are continually shared among colleagues within the LBRA membership. However, the chance for face-to-face discussions about the latest trends, the newest technologies and the unique circumstances surrounding the broadcast of Legislative Assembly proceedings is an invaluable experience." – Rhonda Sorensen, Manager of Corporate Communications and Broadcast Services

Canadian Capital Cities Organization (CCCO) Conference

The LAO and the City of Edmonton co-hosted the 2012 CCCO conference from August 28 to 31. Themed Creating a Capital Experience, the conference covered capital infrastructure and planning for Canada's 150th birthday in 2017 amongst the agenda items.

The Honourable Speaker Zwozdesky hosted an opening reception in the Legislature rotunda and Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel hosted a dinner for delegates and MLAs at Edmonton city hall.

Speaker Kowalski Portrait Unveiling

The official portrait of the Honourable Ken Kowalski, 11th Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, was unveiled October 15, 2012. Ken Kowalski served as Speaker from 1997 to 2012.

> "Ken Kowalski is known for being fair and precise, dignified and generous. His 15-year tenure in the Speaker's chair is the second longest in Alberta's history and stands as a testament to how much he was respected."
>
> *Honourable Speaker Zwozdesky*

Premier Stelmach Portrait Unveiling

The official portrait of the Honourable Ed Stelmach, 13th Premier of Alberta, was unveiled on December 3, 2012. Premier Stelmach served 19 years as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and was Premier of Alberta from December 2006 until October 2011.

> "Premier Stelmach was caring, compassionate and unwavering in his commitment to the citizens of Alberta."
>
> *Honourable Speaker Zwozdesky*

Comparative Statistics

House and Committee Proceedings	2012	2011	2010
Sitting Days	50	47	50
Bills Introduced	30	42	43
Petitions Presented	5	12	13
Tablings	671	653	525
Session and Committee Hours	283	341	425
Committee Meetings	69	62	83

House and Committee Proceedings Documentation	2012	2011	2010
Hansard Pages	2,128	1,726	1,814
Journals Pages	508	460	430

Legislative Assembly Website Activity	2012	2011	2010
Visits	928,448	661,972	723,850
Visitors	491,698	364,114	412,108
Average Hits per Day	2,518	1,813	1,983

Computer and Network Equipment	2012	2011	2010
Workstations	375	375	373
Printers	265	207	250
Servers	52	53	59
Laptops	303	255	258
Mobile Devices	350	272	259
Training Days	117	124	85

Supplies Processing

	2012	2011	2010
Direct Purchase Orders Issued	50	49	66
MLA Purchase Orders Processed	9,475	4,250	4,200
Other Requests Processed	7,975	3,190	3,238
Special Requests Processed	512	391	408
Supplies Orders Processed – Online Ordering System	0	739	753
Supplies Orders Processed – Manual	162	65	68

Office Administration

	2012	2011	2010
Constituency Offices, Moved	28	0	1
Constituency Offices, New	8	0	0
Constituency Offices, Closed	1	1	0
Leases Processed (New or Renewals)	61	8	14
Telecommunications Services Installed or Moved	306	44	22
Telecommunications – Service Requests	1,560	456	407

Information and Records Management

	2012	2011	2010
Boxed Records for Approved Disposition – Constituency/MLA	406	120	72
Boxed Records for Storage – LAO	71	113	174
Boxed Records for Approved Disposition – LAO	10	163	182
Boxed Records for Approved Disposition – Other	80	0	0

Financial Services

	2012	2011	2010
Invoices Coded and Data Entered	17,533	17,539	17,426
Payments Issued	11,610	12,290	12,002
Items Evaluated for Compliance	78	87	68

Note: Financial statistics are based on the fiscal year April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012

Employee Compensation

	2012	2011	2010
Contracts Processed	634	441	398
Total Commencements	330	208	195
Total Terminations	269	157	143
Payroll Transactions	12,435	12,995	12,757

Gift Shop Sales

	2012	2011	2010
Public Sales	99,202	92,334	93,092
MLA Sales	240,989	264,904	271,757

Note: Gift Shop sales based on the calendar year

Visitor Statistics

	2012	2011	2010
Attended Special Events	71,503	73,883	71,296
Participated in Programs	19,500	20,236	18,603
Observed Session	7,620	7,245	7,349
Participated in Tours	44,477	44,898	42,200

Library Reference Transactions by Client Category

	2012	2011	2010
Members and LAO	1,417	1,189	1,231
Alberta Government	238	291	266
Media	64	58	21
Public	881	959	1,137
Total	**2,600**	**2,497**	**2,655**

Library Online Catalogue Use

	2012	2011	2010*
Number of Times the Online Catalogue was Accessed	9,349	8,669	6,497
Number of Searches Conducted in the Online Catalogue	23,295	21,498	17,201

*Statistics are only available for March through December due to a system crash.

Financial Statements

AS AT MARCH 31, 2012

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AUDITOR GENERAL *Alberta*

To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Legislative Assembly Office, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2012, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Legislative Assembly Office as at March 31, 2012, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher, FCA]
Auditor General
Edmonton, Alberta
July 11, 2012

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2012 (in thousands)

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	$36,287	$34,104
Accounts receivable and advances	332	359
Inventory held for resale	163	155
	36,782	34,618
Capital assets (Note 4)	2,945	2,583
	$39,727	**$37,201**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$2,038	$2,407
Vacation pay liability	1,455	1,367
	3,493	3,774
Members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)	29,748	26,720
Net assets	6,486	6,707
	$39,727	**$37,201**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes In Net Assets

As at March 31, 2012 (in thousands)

	2012	2011
Net assets at beginning of year	$6,707	$6,329
Net operating results	(52,758)	(53,418)
Net transfer from general revenues	52,537	53,796
Net assets at end of year	**$6,486**	**$6,707**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2012 (in thousands)

	2012 BUDGET	2012 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL
REVENUES			
Gift shop sales, services and fees	$556	$331	396
Other	–	64	77
	556	395	473
EXPENSES			
Voted:			
Alberta Member	164	116	69
Electoral Boundaries Commission	–	–	294
Federal Building Redevelopment Project	258	–	–
Financial management and administrative services	1,254	1,254	1,177
Government Members' services	3,602	2,932	2,866
House services	6,806	5,502	7,294
Human resource services	1,353	1,191	1,110
Independent Members' services – Mr. Boutilier MLA	–	–	134
Independent Members' services – Dr. Sherman MLA	164	41	54
Information technology services	3,850	4,583	4,310
Legislative committees	2,743	2,020	2,102
Legislature Library	2,699	2,209	2,236
MLA Administration	30,518	29,307	28,446
MLA Compensation Review	–	388	–
NDP Opposition services	561	556	552
Office of the Speaker	550	549	537
Official Opposition services	1,469	1,382	1,423
Visitor Services	1,996	1,766	–
Wildrose Alliance Opposition services	463	531	406
	58,450	54,327	53,010
VALUATION ADJUSTMENTS:			
Capitalization of assets expensed as supplies (Note 3b)	–	(1,391)	(1,272)
Amortization of capital assets (Note 3b)	–	1,029	807
Provision for (reduction in) Members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)	–	(882)	1,401
Provision for (reduction in) vacation pay liability	–	108	(29)
Net consumption of inventory	–	(8)	4
Provision for premium adjustment deposit account	–	(30)	(30)
	–	(1,174)	881
	58,450	53,153	53,891
NET OPERATING RESULTS	**($57,894)**	**($52,758)**	**($53,418)**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2012 (In thousands)

	2012	2011
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Net operating results	($52,758)	($53,418)
Add non–cash charges:		
Amortization of capital assets	1,029	807
Increase (decrease) in vacation pay liability	88	(29)
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and advances	27	56
Decrease (increase) in inventory	(8)	4
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(369)	126
Increase in transition allowance liability	3,028	4,342
Cash used by operating transactions	(48,963)	(48,112)
INVESTING TRANSACTIONS:		
Acquisition of capital assets	(1,391)	(1,272)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS:		
Net transfer from general revenues	52,537	53,796
Net cash provided	2,183	4,412
Cash, beginning of year	34,104	29,692
Cash, end of year	**$36,287**	**$34,104**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Schedule 1
Expenses – Directly Incurred Detailed by Object

Year ended March 31, 2012

	2012		2011
	BUDGET (Note 8)	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
EXPENSES			
Salaries, wages and employer contributions	$24,804,664	$22,742,072	$22,455,675
Supplies and services	16,753,481	14,418,999	14,619,865
Grants	7,000	2,775	450
Payments to MLAs and Executive Council	16,884,855	17,163,637	15,933,909
TOTAL VOTED EXPENSES	**$58,450,000**	**$54,327,483**	**$53,009,899**

Schedule 2
Salary and Benefits Disclosure

For the year ended March 31, 2012

	Base Salary[1]	Other Cash Benefits[2]	Other Non–cash Benefits[3]	2012 Total	2011 Total
SENIOR OFFICIAL					
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly [4]	$264,576	$1,250	$69,499	$335,325	$322,875
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM					
Senior Parliamentary Counsel and Director of House Services	182,520	1,250	61,379	245,149	237,506
Law Clerk and Director of Interparliamentary Relations	182,520	1,250	53,614	237,384	221,855
Director of Human Resource, Information Technology & Broadcast Services	180,984	1,250	50,145	232,379	216,389
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services and Senior Financial Officer	135,984	1,250	35,328	172,562	166,134
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial, & Security Services and Sergeant–At–Arms	133,764	1,250	34,593	169,607	163,477
Legislature Librarian [5]	112,356	1,250	27,811	141,417	134,188
Clerk Assistant and Director of House Services [6]	–	1,280	348	1,628	174,755
Legislature Librarian [5]	–	–	–	–	34,722

[1] Base salary includes pensionable base pay.

[2] Other cash benefits include vacation payouts and lump sum payments. There were no bonuses paid in 2011–2012.

[3] Other non–cash benefits include the Legislative Assembly Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees, including pension, supplementary retirement plans, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short- and long-term disability plans, WCB premiums, professional memberships and tuition fees.

[4] Automobile provided; no dollar amount included in other non–cash benefits.

[5] The position was occupied by two individuals in the fiscal 2010–2011. The latter retired as of May 31, 2010. This position returned to being included as part of the Senior Management Team in fiscal 2011–2012.

[6] This position became vacant on January 14, 2011, upon the retirement of the former incumbent. The title and duties of Director of House Services are now included with the Senior Parliamentary Counsel as noted.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2012

NOTE 1 Authority

The Legislative Assembly Office (the "Office") is operated under the authority of the Legislative Assembly Act. Annual operating budgets are approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services.

NOTE 2 Purpose

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as constitutionally established in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly Office will:

1. Support the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the duties of office.
2. Support Members by providing services, advice, information and infrastructure required to carry out their roles as elected representatives.
3. Record the proceedings and maintain and preserve the records of the Legislative Assembly.
4. Inform and educate the public on behalf of Members and the institution of Parliament.
5. Provide a positive, productive, healthy and secure environment for Members and staff of the Assembly.
6. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges.
7. Support the exchange of ideas/information among parliaments.
8. Build partnerships with external clients in support of the institution of Parliament.

NOTE 3 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Legislative Assembly Office, for which the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is responsible.

The Office operates within the General Revenue Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is administrated by the Minister of Finance and Enterprise. All receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund and all disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund. The net transfer from the Fund is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenses

Expenses represent the costs of resources consumed during the year in the Office's operations.

Valuation Adjustments

Valuation adjustments include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay and transition allowance.

Assets

Financial assets of the Office are limited to financial claims such as cash, advances to and accounts receivable from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Inventory held for resale is reported at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Tangible capital assets of the Office are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight–line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. An asset is deemed a capital item if its invoiced cost is $5,000 (or greater) per item or if an assembly of connected components makes a whole asset (inclusive of labor, shipping, consulting et cetera). The amortization periods are as follows:

Computer hardware and software	3 years
Other equipment	5 years
Furniture	10 years

The Office follows government budgetary practices that allow funds from an operating budget to be used to purchase tangible capital assets. These purchases are included in expenses on the statement of operations, but are then removed from expenses through a valuation adjustment and are capitalized and amortized over their useful lives.

The fair value of cash and accounts receivable and advances are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

Liabilities

Liabilities include all financial claims payable by the Office at fiscal year end.

The Members' transition allowance is estimated based on Members' years of service and their most recent remuneration amounts. The annual charge is the amount that is estimated to have been earned by Members during the year.

The fair values of accounts payable and accrued liabilities and Members' transition allowance are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between the carrying values of assets held by the Office and its liabilities.

Canadian public sector accounting standards require a "net debt" presentation for the statement of financial position in the summary financial statements of governments. Net debt presentation reports the difference between financial assets and liabilities as "net debt" or "net financial assets" as an indicator of the future revenues required to pay for past transactions and events. The Office operates within the government reporting entity and does not finance its expenditures by independently raising revenues. Accordingly, these financial statements do not report a net debt indicator.

NOTE 4 Tangible Capital Assets (in thousands)

	Furniture	Computer hardware and software	Other equipment	2012 Total	2011 Total
Estimated Useful Life	10 years	3 years	5 years		
HISTORICAL COST					
Beginning of Year	$3,179	$2,291	$2,426	$7,896	$6,970
Additions	47	45	1,299	1,391	1,272
Disposals	–	(308)	–	(308)	(346)
	$3,226	$2,028	$3,725	$8,979	$7,896
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION					
Beginning of Year	$2,175	$2,200	$938	$5,313	$4,852
Amortization Expense	257	95	677	1,029	807
Effect of Disposals	–	(308)	–	(308)	(346)
	$2,432	$1,987	$1,615	$6,034	$5,313
Net Book Value at March 31, 2012	**$794**	**$41**	**$2,110**	**$2,945**	–
Net Book Value at March 31, 2011	**$1,004**	**$92**	**$1,487**		**$2,583**

NOTE 5 Expenses Incurred by Alberta Infrastructure (in thousands)

The Office had the following transaction with Alberta Infrastructure for which no consideration was exchanged. The amount for this transaction is estimated based on the actual costs incurred by Alberta Infrastructure to provide the service. The estimated cost for the service is $3,403 for 12,051 usable m^2 (2011 – $3,155).

NOTE 6 Members' Transition Allowance Liability (in thousands)

The Office implemented a Members' transition allowance on October 1, 1998. The provisions of the allowance were established in accordance with the Members' Allowances Order (RMSC 1992, c. M–1, as amended, Section 9).

A transition allowance is paid to every Member at the time of dissolution of the Legislature unless they are re–elected in the next election.

Members who resign their seats are also eligible for the allowance.

Under section 9 the amount paid for service commencing on or after March 20, 1989, is determined by multiplying three months salary, based on the average monthly salary for the three calendar years in which the person received their highest salary, by the number of years the person served as a Member on or after March 20, 1989. "Salary" is defined in section 9(1). For service periods prior to March 20, 1989, the allowance is calculated by multiplying the highest rate of a Member's monthly indemnity and expense allowances for one month for every year of service prior to March 20, 1989, with no restrictions. There is no credit for years of service for which the Member has previously received a payment under section 9 or the predecessor section. Eligible recipients may elect to be paid the allowance over a period of up to four years.

In the event of death of an active Member a transition allowance equivalent to the amount owed at passing is paid to the Member's estate.

	2012	2011
Liability at beginning of year	$26,721	$22,378
Total transition allowance payments	(816)	(283)
Total transition allowance expense	3,843	4,625
Liability at end of year	**$29,748**	**$26,720**
Voted expense	$4,725	$3,225
Valuation adjustment	(882)	1,401
Total transition allowance expense	**$3,843**	**$4,626**

NOTE 7 Defined Benefit Plans (in thousands)

The Office participates in the following multi–employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Office also participates in the multi–employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $1,773 for the year ending March 31, 2012 (2011 – $1,739).

At December 31, 2011, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $517,726 (2010 – deficiency of $397,087) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $1,790,383 (2010 – deficiency of $2,067,151). At December 31, 2011, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a deficiency of $53,489 (2010 – deficiency of $39,559).

The Office also participates in two multi–employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2012, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial surplus of $9,136 (2011 – deficiency of $4,141) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial surplus of $10,454 (2011 – surplus of $7,020). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 8 Budget (in thousands)

EXPENSES:	
2011–2012 budget[a]	$58,450
2011–2012 actual expenses (excluding valuation adjustments)	(54,327)
2011–2012 unexpended (excluding valuation adjustments)	**$4,123**

[a] 2011–12 Offices of the Legislative Assembly Estimates, presented February 24, 2011

NOTE 9 Contractual Obligations (in thousands)

The aggregate amounts payable in 2013 for unexpired contracts is as follows:

	2013	2012
Leased properties	$1,700	$1,600
Office equipment rentals	350	300
Consulting	373	390
	$2,423	$2,290

NOTE 10 Contingent Liabilities (in thousands)

At March 31, 2012 the Office is a defendant in one legal claim (2011 – one). The specified amount is $450 (2011 – $450). The Office has been named jointly with another entity in this legal claim.

The resulting loss, if any, from this claim cannot be determined.

NOTE 11 Approval of Financial Statements

These financial statements were approved by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Alberta Branch

President's Report

> "I am confident in the fact that my CPA colleagues and I have gained trust in one another by way of our many in-person deliberations and solid handshakes shared over the years."

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, president of the Alberta branch of the CPA and 12th Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association enables parliamentarians to reach beyond their jurisdictions to contribute to the development of best practices and effective policies on a wider scale. Since its inception the branches of the CPA have achieved many goals through interparliamentary interaction. The association encourages the exchange of information, the sharing of experiences and the debate of policies.

The Alberta branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association also plays an active role in promoting interparliamentary relations. Over the course of my six terms as a Member I have enjoyed involvement with interparliamentary relations at various levels, but 2012 was my introduction to my new role as a Member of the CPA executive. In the role of president for the CPA Alberta branch I hold a post on the executive committee, which affords me the chance to play an important role in the governance of the association and to act as the voice of Alberta's Legislative Assembly when attending CPA events. Every day I appreciate the gravity of the responsibility I have as Speaker of Alberta's Legislative Assembly. The conferences that I attend, whether CPA-hosted or otherwise, allow me to reflect and remind myself how grateful I am for the knowledge and advice I receive from many distinguished parliamentarians.

Case in point, the CPA 50th Canadian Regional Conference was held July 15 to 21 in Québec City. Among the many important topics of discussion was the participation of aboriginal peoples in political and parliamentary life. Matters focusing on aboriginal Canadians have long been dear to my heart, so I was particularly pleased with its inclusion on the agenda. As Speaker I am a firm believer that all Members should have a voice in our Assembly, all people, especially aboriginal people, should have the opportunity to participate in all levels of the democratic process.

The CPA executive meeting I attended in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from September 7 to 15 was a much more cultural experience. The conference was a highlight for me in terms of travel to a region so distinctly different in many ways from Canada. Not only was there fruitful dialogue among my colleagues on the executive council, but the event also underlined the significance of personal and face-to-face interaction.

Another timely topic of the regional conference was the impact of conventional and social media on parliamentary government and the role of parliamentarians. In 2012 the Legislative Assembly Office began to integrate social media into its communications to Members and citizens. I appreciate the value of social media and how it has advanced the way we communicate, especially in delivering messages to constituents. In fact, the CPA Secretariat also links their website visitors to the various CPA social media pages, which, too, shows their willingness to explore new ways of reaching their stakeholders.

We now have the ability to communicate using technology at all times of the day. We send files across world boundaries without worry about time zones and carry on conversations with people in languages we don't even speak through speech translation software. There is an argument, however, and a strong one at that, that the loss of face-to-face interactions is a distinct downfall to this barrier-free movement. Armed with the fastest and most advanced devices available, our connection with one another is often limited to words and images on a screen. While technology may continue to expand methods of communication and MLAs may benefit greatly through the employment of various new media options, one of the most rewarding aspects of interparliamentary relations centres on face-to-face interactions.

In my tenure as a Member I have been very lucky to have established many lasting relationships with colleagues from all over the world. While I don't think I could ever go back to a time when electronics were not a part of my everyday work life, I revel in the fact that we are still given numerous opportunities to connect and maintain the associations we have built over our years of public service.

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky,
President of the Alberta branch of the CPA and 12th Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Secretary's Report

> "The Alberta branch of the CPA has exemplified leadership through its unparalleled service and support to Members, continued commitment to learning and delivery of high-quality conferences, thus facilitating the effective exchange of ideas amongst parliamentarians."

Dr. W.J. David McNeil, secretary of the Alberta branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

I once read that leadership can be defined as a process of social influence maximizing the efforts of others towards the achievement of a goal. By this definition all Members of the Legislative Assembly are leaders, and indeed in their own way each of them is. By this account, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and its Alberta branch are also leaders. But how does this subject relate to interparliamentary relations? What is the correlation between leadership and the meeting of Members from various parts of the world?

From February 3 to 4, 2012, the Alberta branch of the CPA hosted the 29th Canadian Presiding Officers Conference. When hosting a CPA conference, the host province is given an opportunity to set the agenda with the planning of the business program. The host can ensure a balance between traditional and innovative topics of interest to Members. In our program we invited discussion on important topics such as Canadian-American relations. Other notable discussions looked at the role of the Clerk in support of the Speaker and challenges facing a new Speaker. These were very timely subjects, of course, as we would take part in the 28th general provincial election within a couple months.

As well, we tackled topics oftentimes considered sensitive and controversial such as including a presentation on the challenges and opportunities facing Alberta's oil sands.

In October 2012 the Alberta branch also sent two non-Member delegates to the CPA Canadian Regional Seminar in Québec City to observe. The purpose was to garner knowledge and best practices in anticipation of the same event to be held in Edmonton, Alberta, the following year. This was an invaluable experience for the attendees and proved that in some cases, face-to-face interactions are truly irreplaceable.

The CPA holds conferences frequently and across the world. These events enable parliamentarians to ascertain varying issues faced by other countries. These exchanges also allow Members to learn about different cultures and practices. Most importantly, perhaps, CPA conferences provide both formal and informal settings for delegates to learn from tenured Members with significant experience and know-how.

The one thing we consistently hear is how pivotal these events are for Members and how oftentimes the discussions give new and welcome perspectives to their role as individuals who serve the public.

I have been very proud to attend these conferences on behalf of the Alberta branch. I have seen our branch show superb leadership and innovation, and I know that we are capable of delivering high-quality conferences and programs that help Members to form interparliamentary relationships that they can all benefit from.

W.J. David McNeil,
Secretary of the Alberta Branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Bursaries

Bursaries are presented annually to nominees from TUXIS Parliament of Alberta and the Alberta Girls' Parliament to foster interest in the parliamentary process among young Albertans.

Recipients:

TUXIS Parliament of Alberta – Natasha Larsen, Strathcona-Sherwood Park constituency

Alberta Girls' Parliament – Emily Parsons, Edmonton-McClung constituency

Kathleen Robertson, Edmonton-Riverview constituency

Grade 6 Essay

A province-wide essay contest is held annually for Grade 6 students to encourage greater awareness of the Commonwealth and the parliamentary system.

1st Place – Jacqueline Landers, Strathcona-Sherwood Park constituency

2nd Place – Marleina Schreiner, Edmonton-Whitemud constituency

3rd Place – Valerie Moore, Spruce Grove-St. Albert constituency

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Members of the 28th Legislative Assembly | Alberta Branch

PC

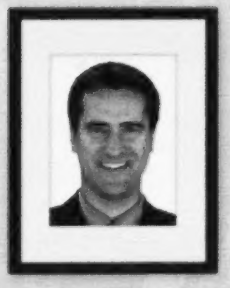
Mike Allen

Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

PC

Moe Amery

Calgary-East



W

Rob Anderson

Airdrie

Official Opposition House Leader

W

Joe Anglin

Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre

W

Drew Barnes

Cypress-Medicine Hat

PC

Naresh Bhardwaj

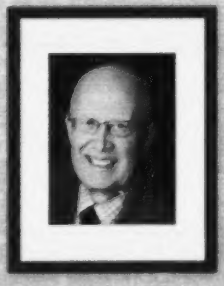
Edmonton-Ellerslie

PC

Honourable Manmeet S. Bhullar

Calgary-Greenway

Minister of Service Alberta



W

Gary Bikman

Cardston-Taber-Warner

ND

Deron Bilous

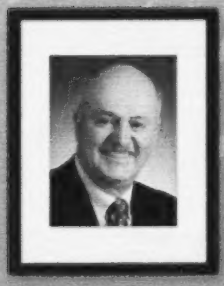
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview

AL

Laurie Blakeman

Edmonton-Centre

Liberal Opposition House Leader



PC

Neil Brown, QC

Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill

PC

Pearl Calahasen

Lesser Slave Lake

PC

Honourable Robin Campbell

West Yellowhead

Minister of Aboriginal Relations

Deputy Government House Leader

PC

Wayne Cao

Calgary-Fort

PC

Ron Casey

Banff-Cochrane

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Members of the 28th Legislative Assembly | Alberta Branch

PC

Honourable Christine Cusanelli

Calgary-Currie

Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation

PC

Honourable Cal Dallas

Red Deer-South

Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations

PC

Alana DeLong

Calgary-Bow

PC

Honourable Jonathan Denis, QC

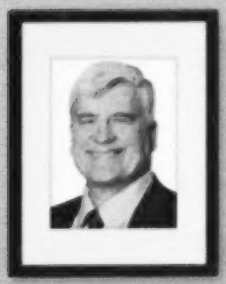
Calgary-Acadia

Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Deputy Government House Leader

W

Ian Donovan

Little Bow



PC

David C. Dorward

Edmonton-Gold Bar

PC

Honourable Wayne Drysdale

Grande Prairie-Wapiti

Minister of Infrastructure

ND

David Eggen

Edmonton-Calder

ND Opposition Whip

PC

Honourable Kyle Fawcett

Calgary-Klein

Associate Minister of Finance

PC

Jacquie Fenske

Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville

W

Heather Forsyth

Calgary-Fish Creek

W

Rod Fox

Lacombe-Ponoka

PC

Rick Fraser

Calgary-South East

PC

Yvonne Fritz

Calgary-Cross

PC

Hector Goudreau

Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Members of the 28th Legislative Assembly | Alberta Branch

PC

Honourable Doug Griffiths

Battle River-Wainwright

Minister of Municipal Affairs

W

Jason Hale

Strathmore-Brooks

PC

Honourable Dave Hancock, QC

Edmonton-Whitemud

Minister of Human Services
Government House Leader

AL

Kent Hehr

Calgary-Buffalo

PC

Honourable Fred Horne

Edmonton-Rutherford

Minister of Health

PC

Honourable Doug Horner

Spruce Grove-St. Albert

President Treasury Board
Minister of Finance

PC

Honourable Ken Hughes

Calgary-West

Minister of Energy

PC

Mary Anne Jablonski

Red Deer-North

Deputy Chair of Committees

PC

Sandra Jansen

Calgary-North West

PC

Matt Jeneroux

Edmonton-South West

PC

Honourable Jeff Johnson

Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater

Minister of Education

PC

Linda Johnson

Calgary-Glenmore

AL

Darshan Kang

Calgary-McCall

Liberal Opposition Whip

PC

Donna Kennedy-Glans

Calgary-Varsity

PC

Honourable Stephen Khan

St. Albert

Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Members of the 28th Legislative Assembly | Alberta Branch

PC

Honourable Heather Klimchuk

Edmonton-Glenora

Minister of Culture

PC

Maureen Kubinec

Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock

PC

Ken Lemke

Stony Plain

PC

Genia Leskiw

Bonnyville-Cold Lake

PC

Jason Luan

Calgary-Hawkwood

PC

Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk

Edmonton-Castle Downs

Deputy Premier

ND

Brian Mason

Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

Leader of the ND Opposition

W

Bruce McAllister

Chestermere-Rocky View

Official Opposition Deputy Whip

PC

Everett McDonald

Grande Prairie-Smoky

PC

Honourable Ric McIver

Calgary-Hays

Minister of Transportation
Deputy Government House Leader

PC

Honourable Diana McQueen

Drayton Valley-Devon

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

ND

Rachel Notley

Edmonton-Strathcona

ND Opposition House Leader

PC

Honourable Frank Oberle

Peace River

Associate Minister of Services for Persons with Disabilities

PC

Cathy Olesen

Sherwood Park

PC

Honourable Verlyn Olson, QC

Wetaskiwin-Camrose

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

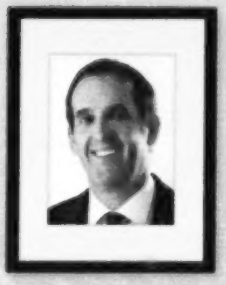
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Members of the 28th Legislative Assembly / As of 31 March

PC

Bridget A. Pastoor

Lethbridge-East



W

Blake Pedersen

Medicine Hat

PC

Sohail Quadri

Edmonton-Mill Woods

PC

Dave Quest

Strathcona-Sherwood Park

PC

Honourable Alison Redford, QC

Calgary-Elbow

Premier
Executive Council

PC

Honourable Dave Rodney

Calgary-Lougheed

Associate Minister of Wellness

PC

George Rogers

Leduc-Beaumont

Deputy Speaker
Chair of Committees

W

Bruce Rowe

Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

PC

Peter Sandhu

Edmonton-Manning

PC

Janice Sarich

Edmonton-Decore

W

Shayne Saskiw

Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills

Official Opposition
Deputy House Leader

PC

Honourable Donald Scott, QC

Fort McMurray-Conklin

Associate Minister of Accountability, Transparency and Transformation

AL

Raj Sherman

Edmonton-Meadowlark

Leader of the Liberal Opposition

W

Danielle Smith

Highwood

Leader of the Official Opposition

PC

Richard Starke

Vermilion-Lloydminster

W

Pat Stier
Livingstone-Macleod

W

Rick Strankman
Drumheller-Stettler

AL

David Swann
Calgary-Mountain View

W

Kerry Towle
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake
Official Opposition Whip

PC

Honourable George VanderBurg
Whitecourt-Ste. Anne
Associate Minister of Seniors

PC

Honourable Greg Weadick
Lethbridge-West
Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs

PC

Len Webber
Calgary-Foothills

W

Jeff Wilson
Calgary-Shaw

PC

Honourable Teresa Woo-Paw
Calgary-Northern Hills
Associate Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations

PC

David H. Xiao
Edmonton-McClung

PC

Steve Young
Edmonton-Riverview
Government Whip

PC

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Edmonton-Mill Creek
Speaker

Conferences

29th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference

Edmonton • February 2 – 5, 2012

Delegates

Gene Zwozdesky, Deputy Speaker, Chair of Committees, Speaker, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Creek

Agenda

- Presentation: Canadian-American relations
- Jurisdiction overviews
- Challenges facing a new Speaker
- Interparliamentary associations and activities
- The role of the Clerk in support of the Speaker
- Alberta's oil sands: Challenges and opportunities
- Opportunities for bilateral discussions/follow-up on conference proceedings among participants

General Assembly, Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)

Brussels, Belgium • July 8 – 12, 2012

Delegates

Hector Goudreau, MLA, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley

50th Canadian Regional Conference, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Québec City, Québec • July 15 – 21, 2012

Delegates

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Creek

George Rogers, Deputy Speaker, Chair of Committees, MLA, Leduc-Beaumont

Mary Anne Jablonski, Deputy Chair of Committees, MLA, Red Deer-North

Pearl Calahasen, MLA, Lesser Slave Lake

Wayne Cao, MLA, Calgary-Fort

Jacquie Fenske, MLA, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville

Bruce Rowe, MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

Agenda

- Professional advancement for women: Can the glass ceiling be broken?
- Connecting passion and purpose: Defining our mission, vision and values
- Women of inspiration
- Parliamentary diplomacy and the protection of human rights at the international level
- Reinforcing parliamentary democracy in the Caribbean: A project for the Canadian region of the CPA?
- Bicameralism in South Africa
- The participation of aboriginal peoples in political and parliamentary life
- Women's participation in politics: Challenges and perspectives—regional views
- Are private Members' Bills a useful tool in today's Legislatures?
- The impact of conventional and social media on parliamentary government and the role of parliamentarians
- Consensus government in Nunavut

Delegate Report

By Wayne Cao

The conference took place in Québec City, hosted by Québec Parliament (Assemblée nationale du Québec), July 15 to 21, 2012. Attending were delegates from Canadian federal and provincial/territorial parliaments, and delegates from parliaments in Europe, Africa, the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand and South Asia.

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians: Welcoming speech by the Chair, CWP. Round-table discussion on professional advancement for women, talking about barriers and reporting on progress in various fields and jurisdictions. In general women have pushed the boundaries in all fields, with great success in politics, but there is room to do more.

Parliamentary diplomacy and the protection of human rights at the international level: Round table discussion on the efforts, initiatives and approaches to idenify and increase protection of human rights, inside and outside our jurisdictions. There were some discussions about whether or not our national government should increase efforts on this front. Some delegates talked about whether the U.S.A. should get into the fray to protect human rights. Some talked about the levels of effort, approaches: interference, intervention, influence, et cetera.

Reinforcing parliamentary democracy in the Caribbean: A project for the Canadian region of the CPA?: Discussion about Canadian parliaments, both at the provincial and federal levels, participating and assisting in the parliamentary systems in the West Indies.

Bicameralism in South Africa: South Africa's parliamentary democracy, a mixture of proportional representation and regional representation, is still a work in progress.

Participation of aboriginal peoples in political and parliamentary life: Presentation by Alberta delegate MLA Pearl Calahasen along with staff Elections Canada. Statistics from Elections Canada were presented. Great progress in Canada for politicians of aboriginal heritage, taking roles of Speakers, Members and Ministers at all parliamentary institutions.

Women's participation in politics: Challenges and perspectives–regional views: Presentation by several delegates who are Speakers of their parliamentary institutions. Participation by women in politics is on the rise. Many jurisdictions have women in leadership, from government leaders to Speakers of parliamentary institutions, but there are still personal challenges for women balancing family life and public life.

Are private Members' Bills a useful tool in today's Legislatures?: The discussion was around the rights and privileges of private Members to do their duty of law-making. It's an important part of the democratic process especially under a majority government.

The impact of conventional and social media on parliamentary government and the role of parliamentarians: The presenters shared their experiences with election campaigns and constituency office services. They talked mostly about their websites and their use of Twitter, Facebook, et cetera.

Consensus government in Nunavut: In the parliamentary bodies of Canadian territories there is no partisan delineation, no opposition side and government side. The Premier is elected by all members. The Premier then selects Ministers and all members vote on matters as individuals.

The government budget is the result of consultation with the federal government, based on the needs proposed by the Premier and Ministers.

(Edited for length)

National Conference of State Legislatures

Chicago, Illinois • August 6 – 9, 2013

Delegates

Dave Quest, MLA, Strathcona-Sherwood Park

David Xiao, MLA, Edmonton-McClung

Naresh Bhardwaj, MLA, Edmonton-Ellerslie

Blake Pedersen, MLA, Medicine Hat

Kerry Towle, MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

Agenda

- International comparison: Sharing solutions round-table discussions
- Leadership is a team sport
- General session featuring Diane Swonk, Chief Economist for Mesirow Financial
- At-will employment: What does it really mean?
- Identity theft and privacy in the online age
- Technology initiatives in the Legislatures
- Thinking outside the box for a new approach to education reform with Marc Tucker
- Using the audit tool: A critical link to effectiveness
- Voter registration: Keeping the roles accurate
- LSSS round-table: How I spent my interim
- Open data, open states
- General session featuring Peter Hart and Neil Newhouse, two of the nation's leading pollsters
- Balancing the powers of governors
- Connecting to citizens
- Public-private partnerships (PPPS) for transportation: Two decades of lessons learned
- Revolutionizing care: How telehealth technologies are being used to treat underserved and rural populations
- Fostering international trade in today's globalized economy
- Legislative staff university: Communication tools for navigating uncertainty
- Legislating in the cloud
- Successful orientation programs for legislators
- Making sound decisions when the sky is falling
- Taxing the cloud: Not a weather phenomenon
- Federalism and the States
- The essential skill for legislative success: Building strong relationships
- Rethinking learning in the 21st century
- Strong stewards: A tribute to legislative staff
- Helping the public: Constituent service programs
- Legislative oversight of federal funds
- The library of the future
- A business-education collaboration for creating jobs
- Innovating with iPads
- Lessons in ethics
- Researching the history or intent of legislative language
- What it means to lead
- Avoiding bias and preparing balanced research
- BYOD, "bring your own device," in the Legislature
- Subpoenas: What happens when the legislature issues one and what to do if you get one

Delegates' Report

We feel privileged as delegates from Alberta to have had the opportunity to participate in the National Conference of State Legislatures with our

American neighbours as well as other international delegates. Our exchange of ideas about legislative management and policy and how it affects us all from border to border was very beneficial.

Observations include:

- Most U.S. legislators support oil sands development and the Keystone pipeline
- They see Canada as a safe, reliable, almost domestic supply
- They need more information at hand to talk about our accomplishments with respect to environmental impact (water used, CCS et cetera.)
- Political environment is somewhat uncertain with the approaching federal election.
- With the economic struggles the U.S. is experiencing, there is a strong respect for the Canadian system, regulations, et cetera that prevented us from having as much difficulty.
- Overall a keen interest in continuing and building relationships with Canadian legislators.

America Region Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophone (APF)

New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana • August 8 – 10, 2012

Delegates

Mary Anne Jablonski, Deputy Chair of Committees, MLA, Red Deer-North

Heather Forsyth, MLA, Calgary-Fish Creek

Ken Lemke, MLA, Stony Plain

Matt Jeneroux, MLA, Edmonton-South West

Sandra Jansen, MLA, Calgary-North West

Deron Bilous, MLA, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview

Delegate Report

By Deron Bilous

As one can imagine, being a first-time participant at this conference meant that I had much to learn about the procedure of the conference, how business is conducted, the governance structure and the roles each province and territory play. Also, developing relationships with other MLAs, MPs and Louisiana representatives was positive, and I can see the benefit of continuing those relationships. Interestingly, I have already been approached about attending next year's APF conference in Toronto. I plan to continue improving my French language skills, and I recognize the value in sending Alberta MLAs who speak French.

I personally benefited from attending the conference in several ways. In three short days much of my ability to communicate in French returned to me. Because the business portion of the conference was conducted in French, I feel inspired to become fluent in French once again. Because of the conference I am interested in how French speakers impact the Alberta economy. We have a significant number of French speakers in Alberta, and I am motivated to learn how the government of Alberta supports our French speakers.

The conference also helped me to build and improve upon my relationships with fellow Alberta MLAs and also those from across the country. I enjoyed being able to work with, socialize and learn from other MLAs regardless of party affiliation.

In closing, I wanted to express my gratitude for allowing me to attend this year's APF conference in New Orleans. Thank you for recommending that I attend this conference, especially as a new MLA. I hope to have communicated some of the value I found through participation in the conference both personally and as an elected representative in Alberta.

(Edited for length)

Delegate Report

By Heather Forsyth

I personally found the conference very informative, and the delegates attending were very passionate about protecting and maintaining the French language. The discussion spoke to the extent to which the French language opens doors to the labour market in each province, state or region. We heard from delegates who passionately spoke about the importance and economic advantage of knowing French in their province, state or country. We were lucky enough to have a guided tour of government headquarters and the legislative Chambers.

I want to close by sharing with you one session that I found particularly fascinating, hosted by Tom Klingler, Associate Professor at Tulane University. CODOFIL was empowered to do all things necessary to develop the French language in Louisiana, where 227,161 people speak French, 27,613 speak Cajun French and 6,310 speak Creole French. Linguists often recognize three French-related languages: Plantation Society French, Cajun French and Louisiana Creole. Plantation Society French is linked to the wealth of Louisiana plantation society, and Cajun French is closely associated with the Acadians exiled from Acadia.

(Edited for length)

Conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC)

Iqaluit, Nunavut • August 19 – 21, 2012

Delegates

Rob Anderson, MLA, Airdrie, Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

David Dorward, MLA, Edmonton-Gold Bar

Jason Hale, MLA, Strathmore-Brooks

Mike Allen, MLA, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

Agenda

- Overview of new developments in PAC and AG
- Guest speaker Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, O.C.
- Challenges of the three northern Legislatures
- Best practices of orientation programs for new members of public committees
- Joint interactive voting session: Best practices and solutions to key challenges
- Update on CCPAC
- Staff of PACS: Breakout meeting
- Effective questioning workshop

Delegate Report

Monday morning we had a short briefing from the Canadian Comprehensive Audit Foundation (CCAF), focused on the differences that exist at the provincial, territorial and federal levels.

We then had an hour keynote speech and Q and A with Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier OC. She spoke on the effect of three things on the Inuit way of life:

- Poison in the food chain;
- Ozone layer thinning; and
- Global warming.

Her point was that environmental factors have had dramatic affects on the Inuit way of life. The Inuit way of life is dependent on ice. She commented that the Inuit themselves need to show an example and leadership and make sure they are not doing things that negatively affect the environment.

After that, we had a panel discussion on the challenges of the true northern Legislatures. Nunavut, the North West Territories and Yukon were represented.

The afternoon started with a facilitated discussion on how other provinces and territories run their committees. Some discussion of the interaction between the committees and the auditors in each area ensued. After this, we had a very informative and interesting session where we as a group voted on a number of different opinions on how committees work. This was done electronically with each participant having a clicker.

Tuesday morning the chairs and vice-chairs got together, and the auditors and committee members separated into breakout rooms. This was a great chance to in a smaller group grill experienced committee members as to their role and how they do their work. This conversation dominated the morning, although there was time for a short discussion on how to pose effective questions to witnesses before the committee.

Some discussion points/observations:

- The Alberta committee is the largest in the country. This has implications for the number of questions that realistically can be asked in a session. At the conference we learned of how some committees limit the time by member or by caucus and how some committees go free-form.
- We learned how the CCAF can provide training for the committee. We will be exploring this option more in early September.
- We had a lot of discussion about the mandate of the committee and how that mandate varies around the country. Generally our system in Alberta is different than the rest of the provinces. Their focus is mostly on the Auditor General's report whereas our focus is on the various ministries and departments. This difference will be explored by our committee.
- We learned that most of the committees have a planning session in camera. This helps to make the meeting go smoother since committee members are on the same page.

(Edited for length)

National Speakers Conference

Anchorage, Alaska • August 19 – 23, 2012

Delegates

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Creek

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) – Executive Meeting

Colombo, Sri Lanka • September 7 – 15, 2012

Delegates

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker, MLA Edmonton-Mill Creek

34th Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Edmonton, Alberta • October 11 – 14, 2012

Delegates

David Dorward, MLA, Edmonton-Gold Bar

Joe Anglin, MLA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre

Agenda

- The courts and the legislators – Can we talk?
- Tour of the Alberta Legislature Building
- Toward fair and effective representation: Balancing relative voter parity with communities of cultural interest – the ongoing Nova Scotia experience
- Connecting, involving and democratizing: Assessing the potential of new media and information technologies
- Governments' involvement in youth sport and the role governments should play
- Differences in being a Member in a minority versus majority government situation

Joint Seminar of CPA, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

Vienna, Austria • October 29 – 31, 2012

Delegates

Donna Kennedy-Glans, MLA, Calgary-Varsity

Agenda

- The commodities market, recent boom, impacts and trends
- Tax policy and revenue
- Macro-economic policy choices
- Diversification, options and best practices
- Monitoring contracts to increase transparency in extractive industries
- Using parliamentary oversight tools to enhance accountability of the extractive sectors
- Conflict, safeguards and climate change
- How practitioners can work with parliaments in promoting good governance of the extractives sector

Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL)

Columbus, Ohio • December 2 – 5, 2012

Delegates

David Xiao, MLA, Edmonton-McClung

Alana DeLong, MLA, Calgary-Bow

Laurie Blakeman, MLA, Edmonton-Centre

Agenda

- Electronic filing round-table
- Local agency round-table
- International perspectives round-table: A consolidation of democratic processes around the world
- Plenary session: Welcome to the 34th annual conference – an overview
- Ethics update
- Privacy versus transparency: Maintaining the delicate balance
- Civic and demographic engagement: Voter turnout and beyond-how to increase citizen engagement
- e-Business management: Automating tasks to improve efficiency and consistency in your office
- Getting what you need: Agencies as lobbyists
- Can economic development and good government co-exist?
- Campaign finance update part I: The "must know" litigation of 2012
- DIY outreach and education: e-Learning and beyond
- Making the grade: Understanding state integrity investigations' ethics report cards
- Elections 2012
- i-Voting: Where are we now – Real life pitfalls and opportunities
- Constitutional challenges to watchdog statutes
- Building Bridges: lawyers and law firms that represent the regulated community
- Transforming your data for public consumption
- Board members/commissioners round-table
- Campaign finance update II: Trends and highlights legislative round-table
- Dealing with complaints and investigations and working with prosecutors
- Latest developments in cloud computing: What you need to know
- The baby boomers are gone: A blueprint for succession
- Building effective partnerships – Fulfilling agency missions in times of diminished resources
- Lobbying update – legislation and litigation
- Elections update – legislation and litigation
- Advisory opinions – tips, tricks and best practices
- Freedom of information update – Legislation and litigation
- Regulating in cyberspace–Monitoring and controlling internet campaigning and e-Delivery of contributions
- Freedom of information round-table
- Rogue Treasurers: Case studies of the embezzlement of campaign funds
- Working smarter: Strategic planning and process management for your office
- Audits: How much is too much and when to focus on results
- Fear Factor: Can you bite the hand that funds you?

Delegate Report

The conference program covered issues of interest to the Legislative Offices Committee relating to its work with the Officers of the Legislature,

which include the Auditor General, Chief Electoral Officer, Child and Youth Advocate, Ethics Commissioner, Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Ombudsman.

The conference program addressed elections, campaign financing, audit models, ethics, lobbying and public disclosure and privacy policies. There were update sessions with respect to ongoing, resolved and new issues and legal matters relating to elections, ethics, lobbying and information and privacy. Alberta was represented by delegates from the cities of Airdrie and Calgary, the Office of the Ethics Commissioner and Lobbyists Registrar, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Legislative Offices Committee. Delegates were also present from the various provincial offices of elections, lobbying, ethics and information and privacy from the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Ontario and Quebec as well as representatives from those offices within the government of Canada.

COGEL is an international organization whose primary membership originates in the United States and Canada. Delegates and session participants at the 2012 conference were from the United States, Canada and Australia. Canadian jurisdictions were well represented, and moderators and panelists included representatives from various federal and provincial offices. Mr. Xiao, Committee chair, was the speaker during a plenary session and spoke to his early years as a young man in communist China and his eventual emigration to Canada. The 2013 conference will be held in Québec City in December 2013.

> “Legislators hail from a wide variety of backgrounds and have different reasons for why they enter public life. The AB Branch of the CPA benefits greatly from the diverse knowledge and range of experience brought to the table by legislators from various jurisdictions.”
>
> *Robert Reynolds, QC, Law Clerk and Director of Interparliamentary Relations*

Interparliamentary Relations

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, Deputy Chair of Committees and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office liase with Members and staff of other parliaments and with other representatives of foreign countries. In 2012 they welcomed the following visitors:

May 30

Mr. Hermann Sitz
Consul General of Germany

June 5

Dr. Georg Witschel
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Bernd Reuscher
Honorary Consul of Germany

June 7

Honourable Professor Margaret Kamar
M.P. Republic of Kenya, Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology

June 7

Mr. Fernando Villar Montekio
Consul of the United Mexican States

June 11

Mr. Sardar Mohinder Singh Kainth
Secretary, Punjab Mandi Board, Sector 17, India

June 20

Mr. Noor Chaudhry
Business Entrepreneur, England

June 27

Mr. Alexander Budden
British Consul General of United Kingdom

Mr. Tony Kay
British Consul General

July 22

Honourable Dr. Mahamadu Bawumia
Former Dep. Governor, Bank of Ghana

July 24

Honourable Grant Woodhams
Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Western Australia

August 27

Ms. Satwinder Sirsa
Councillor, Delhi

Mr. Mehar Singh
Head, Ramky International Group, Delhi

Mr. Anu Bansal
Chief Operating Officer, Pearls Chain of Hotels

September 20

Mr. Susumu Fukuda
Japanese Consul General

September 22

Sheikh Nadim Gemayel
MP, Beirut

October 1

His Excellency Philippe Andre Zeller
Ambassador of France

October 3

His Excellency Dr. Ray Bassett
Ambassador of Ireland to Canada

October 4

His Excellency Leslie Gatan
Ambassador of Philippines to Canada

October 5

His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete
President of Tanzania

October 10

Mr. Peter Kujawinski
Consul General of the United States

October 15

His Excellency Membathisi Mdladlana
High Commissioner Designate, Republic of South Africa

October 17

Her Excellency Traoré Ami Diallo
Ambassador of Mali

October 29

Mr. Fabrizio Inserra
Consul General of Italy

Mr. José Antonio Gloria Morales
Secretary of Education, State of Jalisco, Mexico

November 19

Lu Xinde
VP of Vegetable Research Institute, China

Guo Lihong
Int'l Marketing Manager of Tomato Paste Factory

December 5

His Excellency Werner Wnendt
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Bernd Reuscher
Honorary Consul of Germany

Obituaries

Richard (Dick) Sherwood Fowler, QC

April 12, 1932 – July 8, 2012

Mr. Fowler was first elected in the election held April 8, 1989, and served until June 14, 1993. During his years of service he represented the constituency of St. Albert for the Progressive Conservative Party.

During his term in office Mr. Fowler served as Solicitor General, Minister Responsible for Native Affairs, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Mr. Fowler also served on the Select Standing Committee on Public Affairs.

In addition to his service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly Mr. Fowler also served as a councillor in St. Albert, Alberta (1963-1965), mayor of St. Albert, Alberta (1965-1968 and 1980-1989), a judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta (1994-2007) and supernumerary judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta (2007-2009).

Mr. Fowler has received many honours, including:

- Appointed Queen's Counsel (December 31, 1987)
- Queen Elizabeth II golden jubilee medal – Governor General of Canada (2002)
- Alberta centennial medal, government of Alberta (2005)

Honourable Edgar Peter Lougheed, PC, CC, AOE, QC, MBA, LLD

July 26, 1928 – September 13, 2012

Mr. Lougheed was first elected in the election held May 23, 1967, and served until February 28, 1986. During his years of service he represented the constituency of Calgary West for the Progressive Conservative Party.

During his term in office Mr. Lougheed served as Leader of the Official Opposition (1967-1971) and as Premier (1971-1985).

He also served on the Select Standing Committees on Public Accounts; Public Affairs, Agriculture and Education; and Public Affairs.

To date Mr. Lougheed is the only Leader of the Official Opposition to subsequently become Premier, and he remains the second-longest serving Premier. Peter Lougheed's election as the first Progressive Conservative Premier of Alberta brought to an end 36 years of Social Credit government. On April 14, 1976, Premier Lougheed introduced Bill 35, the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act, establishing a provincial savings regime for resource revenues for the province of Alberta. Peter Lougheed also figured prominently in the negotiations for the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution (1982), with his influence found notably in the creation of an amending formula that would develop into the notwithstanding clause of the Constitution Act of 1982. He was also a member of the Canadian Officers Training Corps (COTC).

Mr. Lougheed has received many honours, including:

- Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame inductee (2010)
- Woodrow Wilson award for public service by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2004)
- Churchill Society award for excellence in the cause of parliamentary democracy (1998)
- Distinguished service award: Service to the community by the Law Society of Alberta and Canadian Bar Association – Alberta (1996)
- Alberta Order of Excellence (1989)
- Legal humanitarian of the year award from Calgary Legal Guidance (1987)
- Companion of the Order of Canada (1986)
- Made a member of the Queen's Privy Council (April 17, 1982)
- Honorary chief of the Cree Nation, with the name "Thunderbird" (1971), and honorary chief in the Kainai chieftainship, with the name "Crop Eared Wolf" (July 20, 1974)
- Appointed Queen's Counsel (1971)

George Topolnisky

August 13, 1916 – March 19, 2012

Mr. Topolnisky was first elected in the election held August 30, 1971, and served until May 7, 1986. During his years of service he represented the constituency of Redwater-Andrew for the Progressive Conservative Party.

During his term in office George Topolnisky served as Minister Without Portfolio and also as Minister Responsible for Rural Development.

Mr. Topolnisky served as chair on both the Select Special Committee on Recreational and Commercial Fishing Industries in Alberta and Select Standing Committee on Law and Regulations. He also served on Select Standing Committees on Private Bills; Private Bills, Standing Orders, and Printing; Public Accounts; Public Affairs; Public Affairs, Agriculture and Education; and the Special Committee of the Legislature on Professions and Occupations.

In addition to his service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly Mr. Topolnisky graduated with a bachelor of education from the University of Alberta and served as a councillor (1965-1966) and as mayor (1966-1971) of the village of Andrew, Alberta.

In 1997 Mr. Topolnisky received the Michael Luchkovich award from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council.

Brian C. Downey

November 5, 1950 – January 12, 2012

Mr. Downey was first elected in the election held May 8, 1986, and served until April 8, 1989. During his service he represented the constituency of Stettler for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Brian C. Downey served on the Select Standing Committees on Private Bills, Public Accounts, and Public Affairs and as chair of the Special Committee to Prepare and Report Lists of Members to Compose the Select Standing Committees.

In addition to his service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly Mr. Downey served as county councillor, division 3 of the county of Paintearth (1983-1986); school trustee, county of Paintearth (1983-1986); vice-chairman of the board of education of the county of Paintearth (1985); and chair of the Alberta Grain Commission.

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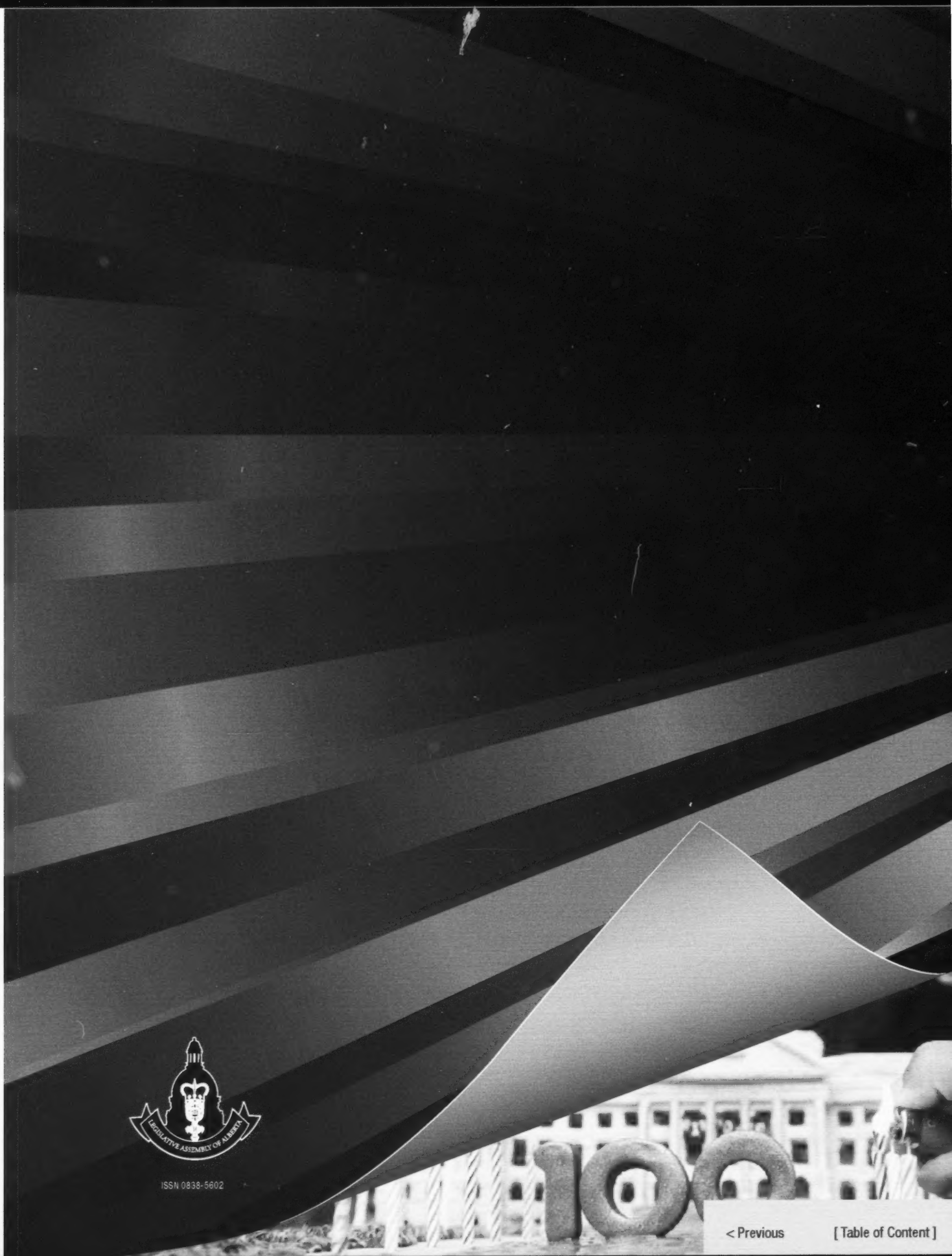

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